Dark Horse Comics

OUTLANDERS

1

STUDIO PROTEUS

Johji Manabe

OUTLANDERS™

VOLUME 1

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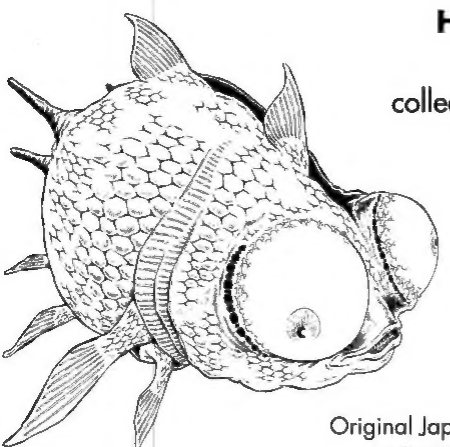

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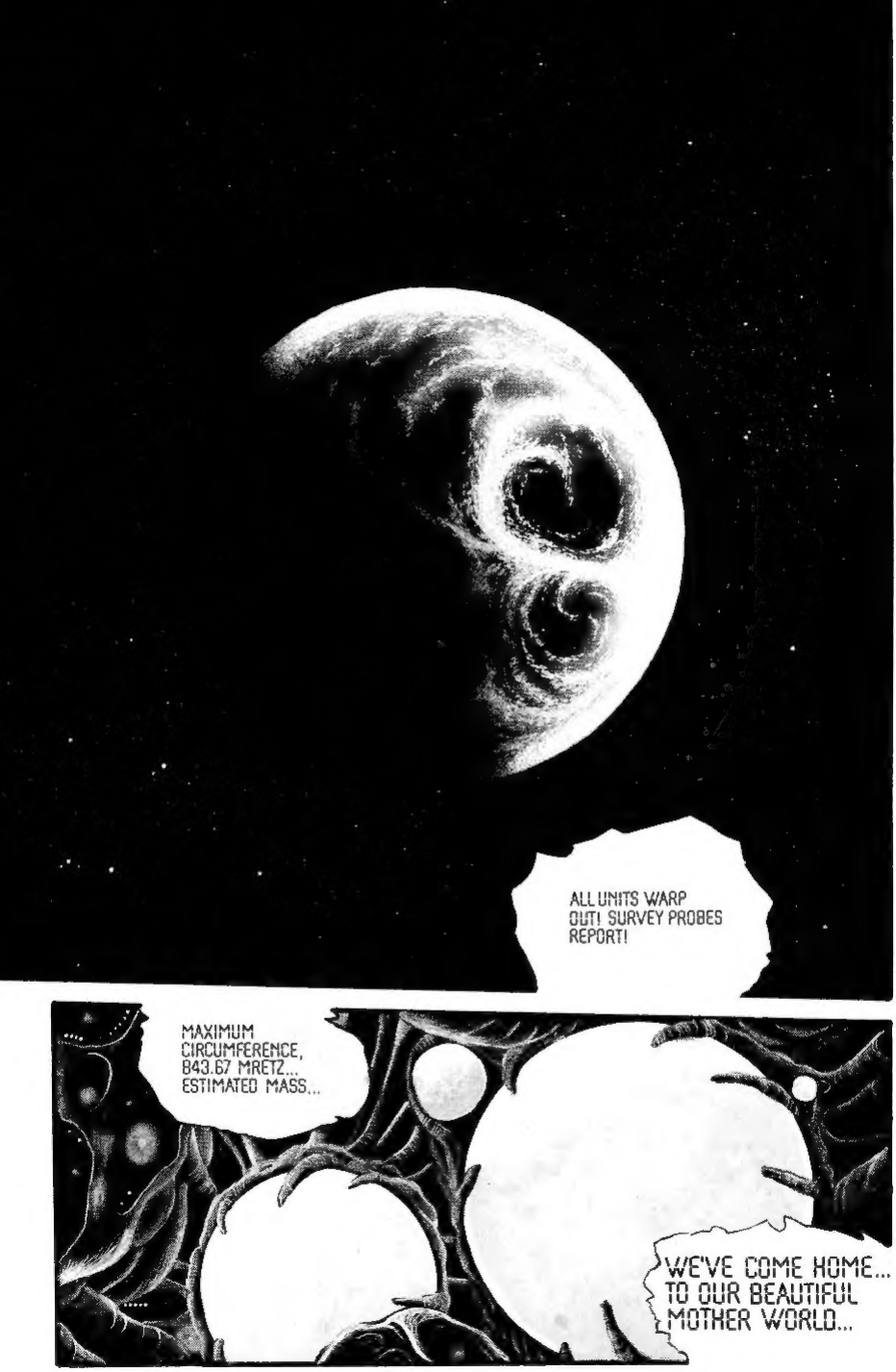
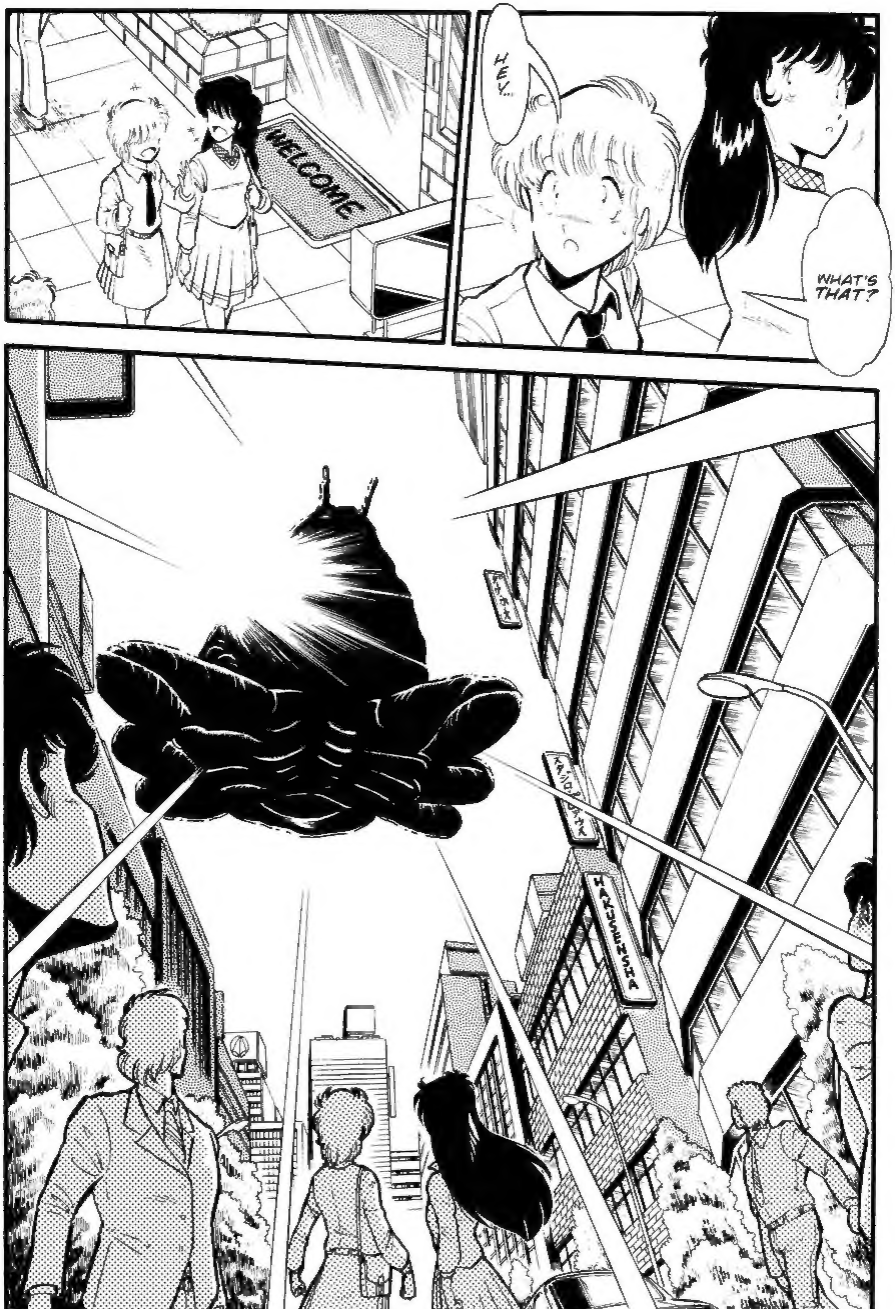

ALL UNITS WARP OUT! SURVEY PROBES REPORT!
MAXIMUM CIRCUMFERENCE, 843.67 MRETZ... ESTIMATED MASS...
WE'VE COME HOME... TO OUR BEAUTIFUL MOTHER WORLD...

TOKYO, 199? A.D.
RRRINNGG
.....
RRRINGG
KACHK
RR
HULLO...
WAKATSUKI SPEAKING...
TETSUYA WAKATSUKI (10): PHOTOGRAPHER

WHAT TIME DO YOU THINK IT IS?!
AKI
♥MAKI
AKI? WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA, CALLING SO EARLY?
EARLY?! IT'S ELEVEN O'CLOCK! I TOLD YOU TO BE HERE BY NINE!
GIVE ME A BREAK, HUH...
I DIDN'T GET HOME UNTIL SIX... I'M BEAT.
AND I WAS UP ALL NIGHT BEFORE THAT...
SO WAS I!!

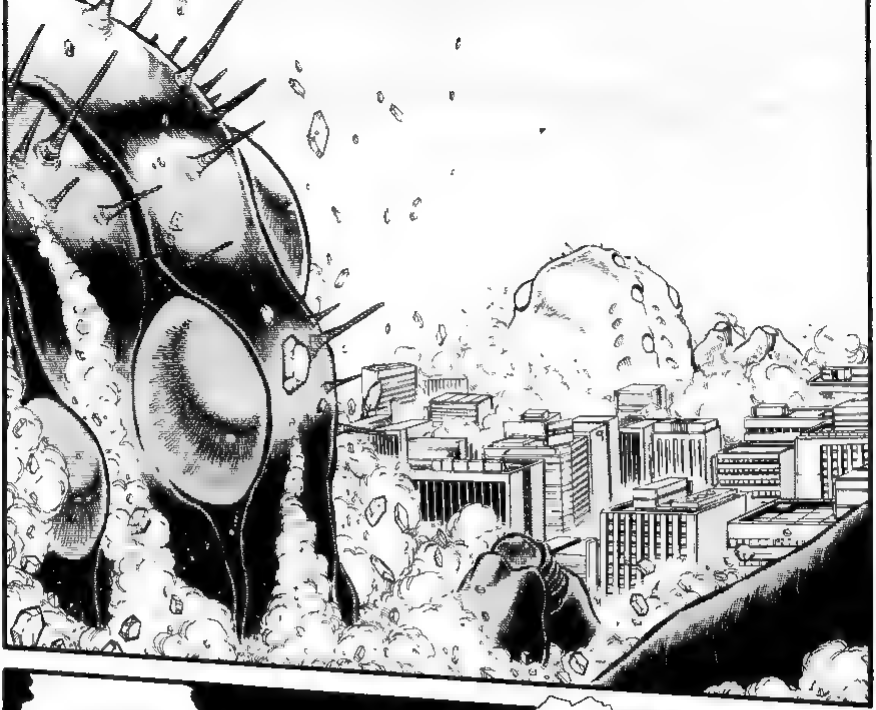
I'M UP, AND I'M HERE, AND I'M A WOMAN! YOU'RE A WIMP!
ANYWAY, WE NEED A PHOTOGRAPHER ON THE STORY.
TOA NEWSPAPER INC. CITY DESK.
NOT THAT SAME OLD STORY...?
QUIT YOUR BITCHING!
OKAY, OKAY...
DO YOU HEAR ME?! GET OVER HERE RIGHT NOW! UNDERSTAND?!
YES, M'AM!!
BROTHER! THAT'S A WOMAN?
JUST BECAUSE SHE'S OLDER THAN ME...
AND JUST BECAUSE SHE'S A HOTSHOT REPORTER ON A BIG PAPER...

?!
WHAT WAS THAT?
A FLASH OF LIGHT...
EEEYAH!!

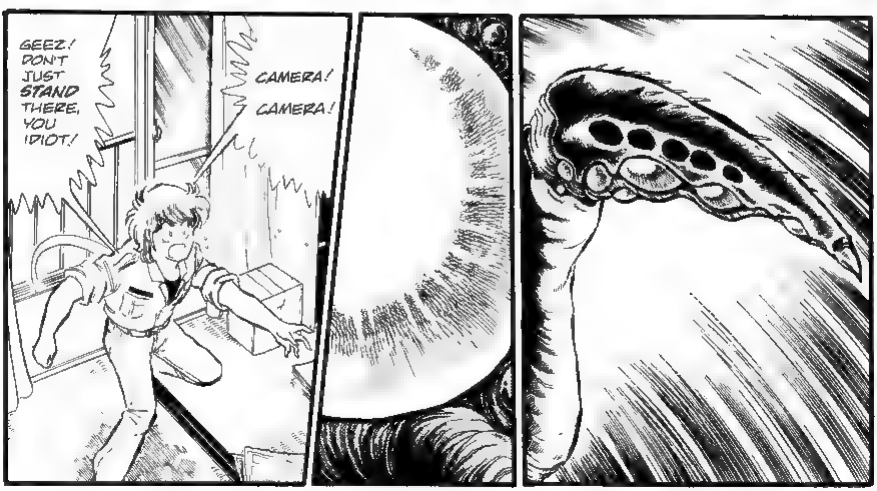

WELCOME
HEY!
WHAT'S THAT?

SKRASH

KIK TIK
WHA WHAT THE HELL IS THAT ?!
IT'S NOT A METEORITE
IT IT'S MOVING



MY GOD. WHAT ARE THEY?
!?!

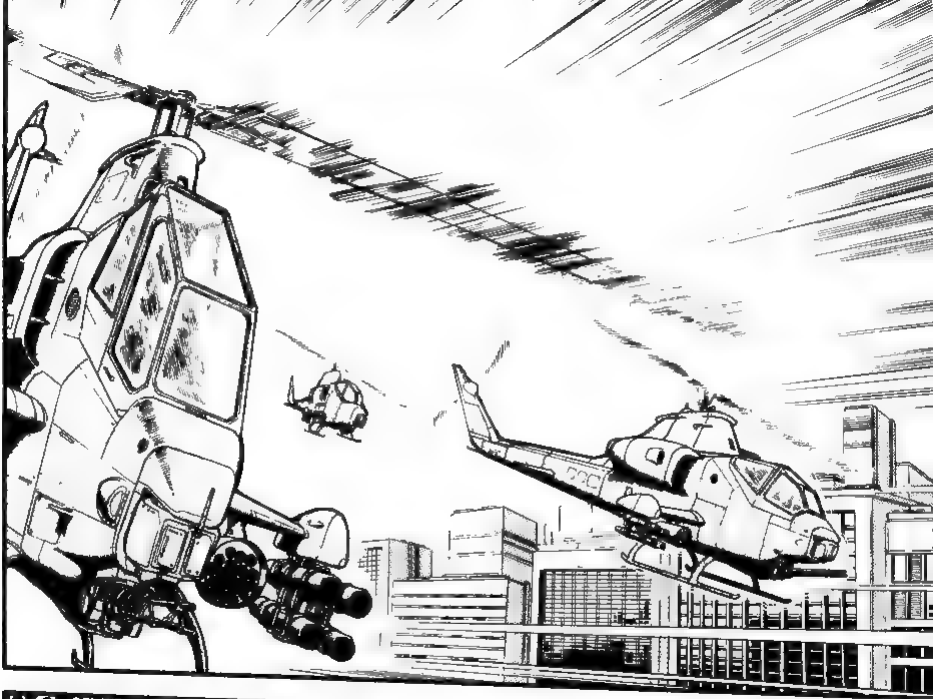

GEEZ! DON'T JUST STAND THERE, YOU IDIOT!
CAMERA!
CAMERA!

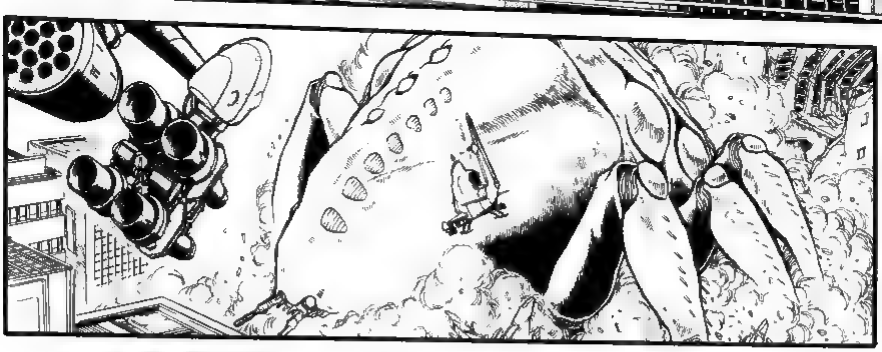
CAN THIS REALLY BE HAPPENING ?
THIS IS MODERN TOKYO. AFTER ALL !
FORGET IT, FORGET IT ! JUST GET THE PICTURES !

KCHIK
KCHIK
KCHIK

I SEE IT, BUT I DON'T BELIEVE IT
HOW CAN SOMETHING LIKE THAT JUST DROP OUT OF THE SKY?

THEY'RE HUGE...
KCHIK
THERE'S NOTHING LIKE THAT ON EARTH...
HUH?
WHP
WHP
WHP



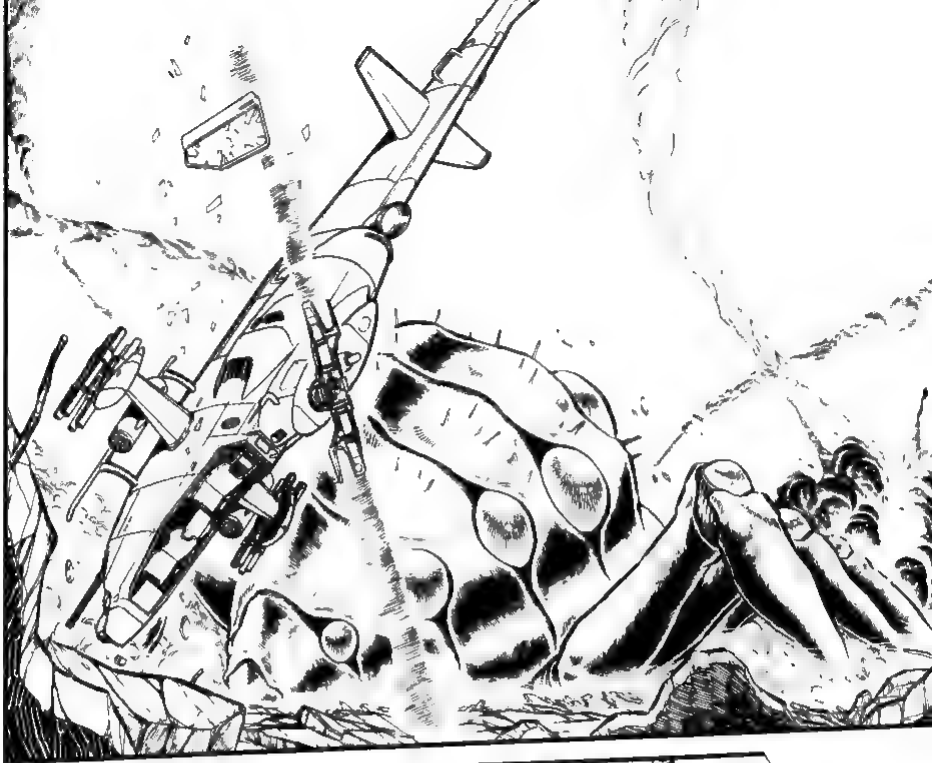


JAPAN SELF DEFENSE FORCE JAPAN'S STANDING ARMY

HOLY HELL!
I'LL GET CREAMED IF I STAY HERE!
STEADY NOW.. IT'S TOO BIG TO MISS.
JUST LIKE IN TRAINING. NO PROBLEM..
SHEEOOWWW
SHEEOOWWW

KKOOM
KROOM
DID WE GET IT ?!
ALL RIGHT !
NO WAIT

WHAT THE HELL?! NOT A SCRATCH!
I'LL COME AROUND AGAIN! THIS TIME GIVE IT ALL THE ROCKETS!
SKRNCH!
GHAA!



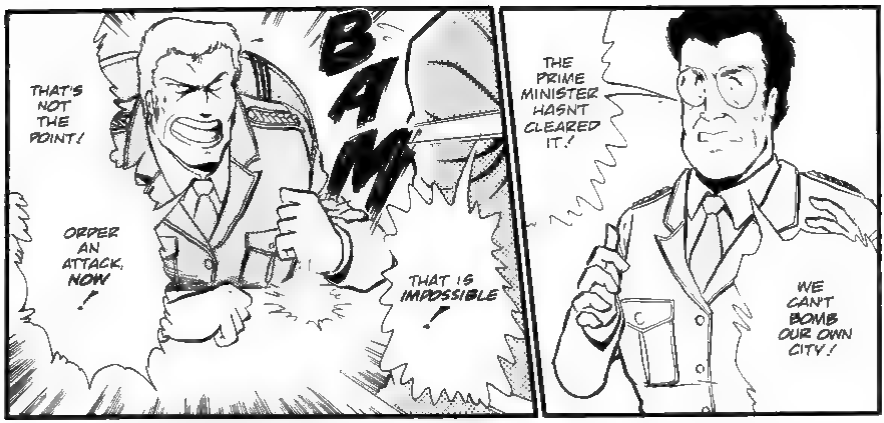
W. WIPED OUT!
ALL OF THEM!

WHAT ARE THEY DOING?! GEEZ!
THEY'RE JUST LIKE THE ARMY IN A GODZILLA MOVIE!
KCHIK
KCHIK

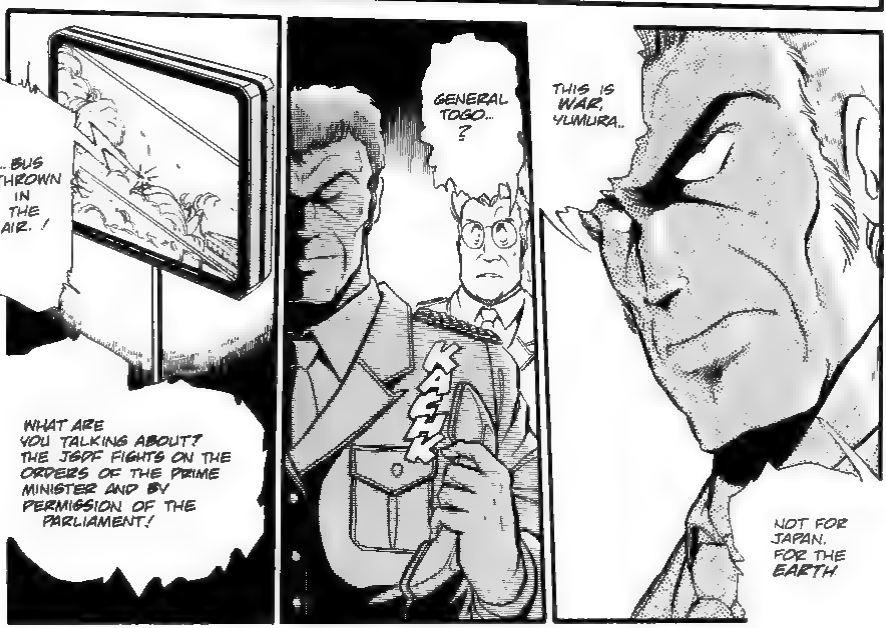
:UNHH!:
KROOM

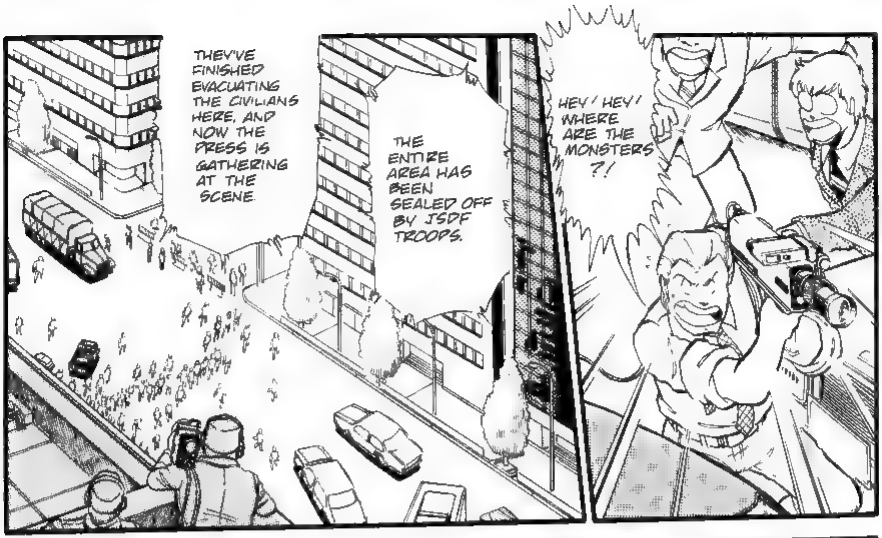
WE'VE LOST CONTACT WITH THE CHOPPERS!
DESTROYED. I SEE. I UNDERSTAND.
WHAT ABOUT THE TANK BATTALION? ARE THEY IN PLACE?
ALL ROADS TO THE SITE ARE JAMMED THEY'LL NEED MORE TIME!
GET THEM IN GEAR FOR GOD'S SAKE! THEY WERE PUT ON ALERT AN HOUR AGO!
SO. IT'S FINALLY COME.

THE MOMENT ALL THOSE MONSTER MOVIES AND CARTOONS COME TO LIFE...
TWO THOUSAND DEAD ALREADY. MORE TO COME..
AND THIS ISN'T EVEN A FRACTION OF THEIR POWER.
GENERAL TOGO!
BAM
AIR COMMANDER YUMURA... WHAT IS IT?
THAT HELICOPTER ATTACK!
WERE THOSE YOUR ORDERS?
WHERE THE HELL IS THE F-4 GROUND ATTACK WING?!
I ASKED FOR THEM AN HOUR AGO!
YES, YOU DID
BUT AT THE TIME YOU DIDN'T SAY WHY.
DID YOU ALREADY KNOW ABOUT THOSE MONSTERS?


THAT'S NOT THE POINT!
BAM
ORDER AN ATTACK, NOW!
THAT IS IMPOSSIBLE!
THE PRIME MINISTER HASNT CLEARED IT!
WE CAN'T BOMB OUR OWN CITY!

BUT YOU! YOU JUST...
COMMANDER YUMURA... MY ORDERS DO NOT COME FROM THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT.


...BUS THROWN IN THE AIR.!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? THE JSDF FIGHTS ON THE ORDERS OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND BY PERMISSION OF THE PARLIAMENT!
GENERAL TOGO...?
KACHI
THIS IS WAR, YUMURA..
NOT FOR JAPAN. FOR THE EARTH


THEY'VE FINISHED EVACUATING THE CIVILIANS HERE, AND NOW THE PRESS IS GATHERING AT THE SCENE.
THE ENTIRE AREA HAS BEEN SEALED OFF BY JSDF TROOPS.
HEY! HEY! WHERE ARE THE MONSTERS?!

IS IT TRUE THE HELI-COPTER ATTACK HAD NO EFFECT?
ARE THOSE THINGS MACHINES? ARE THEY ALIVE?

THE AREA WITHIN A THREE MILE RADIUS IS A MILITARY COMBAT ZONE! NO ONE GOES IN!
CLEAR THE WAY! WE HAVE TANKS COMING THROUGH!
REPEAT. CLEAR THE...

I'M TOO LATE!
HEY! WE CAN'T GET ANY PICTURES FROM HERE!
WHAT ARE YOUR CONTINGENCY PLANS?
OW! QUIT SHOVING!
HIS HOUSE WAS NEAR HERE...
DID HE GET AWAY...?
!!
MASATO!

OVER HERE! HERE!
IT'S ME!
AKI!
REPORTING ?
UH-huh.
CAN'T YOU LET ME THROUGH ?
DON'T BOTHER, AKI.. IT'S OVER BETWEEN US.
EH?
FOR OLD TIME'S SAKE...
THE REST OF YOU REPORTERS LISTEN UP, TOO!

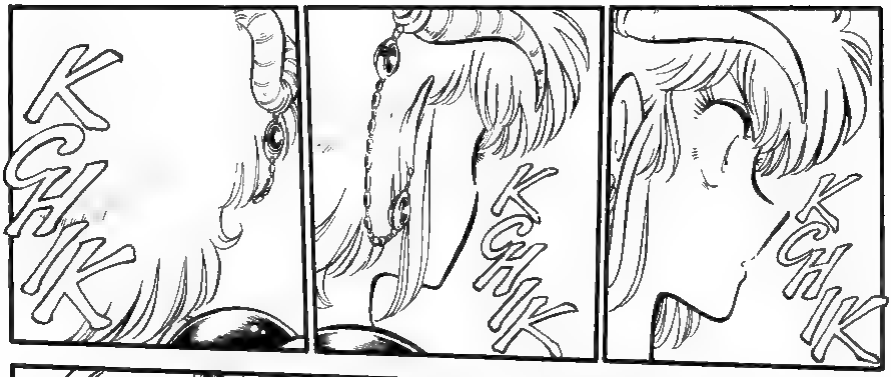
UNDER THE EMERGENCY POWERS ACT, THERE WILL BE NO, REPEAT, NO, REPORTS ON THIS INCIDENT
ALL NEWS WILL BE ISSUED BY THE GOVERNMENT!
WHAT?!
THAT'S UNCONSTITUTIONAL!
WAIT A SEC! WHAT ABOUT FREEDOM OF THE PRESS?!
IT'S OUR DUTY TO INFORM THE PEOPLE!
YOUR EDITORS ARE ALREADY ON BOARD WITH THIS
"SELF RESTRAINT," THEY CALLED IT
WE'RE DEALING WITH AN EMERGENCY SITUATION HERE.
IN ORDER TO PREVENT RUMOR AND DISINFORMATION.
I'M SURE I CAN TRUST YOU ALL TO COOPERATE

THAT'S IT!
I'M GETTING THE HELL OUT OF HERE!
EXCUSE ME, SIR..
HEY.. YOU ALL RIGHT ?

BISSH
GHK!
TMP
GUH GUH GUH
GAAH!
ALL OF THEM.. IT
IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN ONE OF THOSE MONSTERS..!

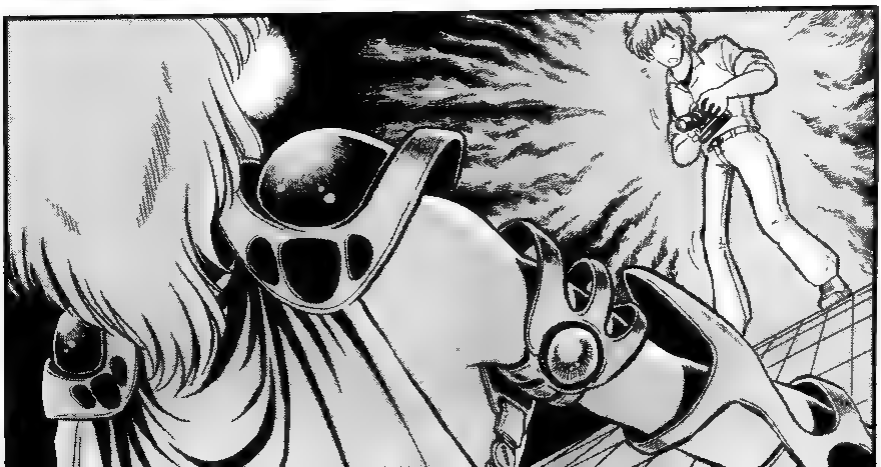
GUAHH!
!!
WAIT!
S...STOP!
DON'T...
DON'T KILL ME!
WHOOK

ぐしゃ

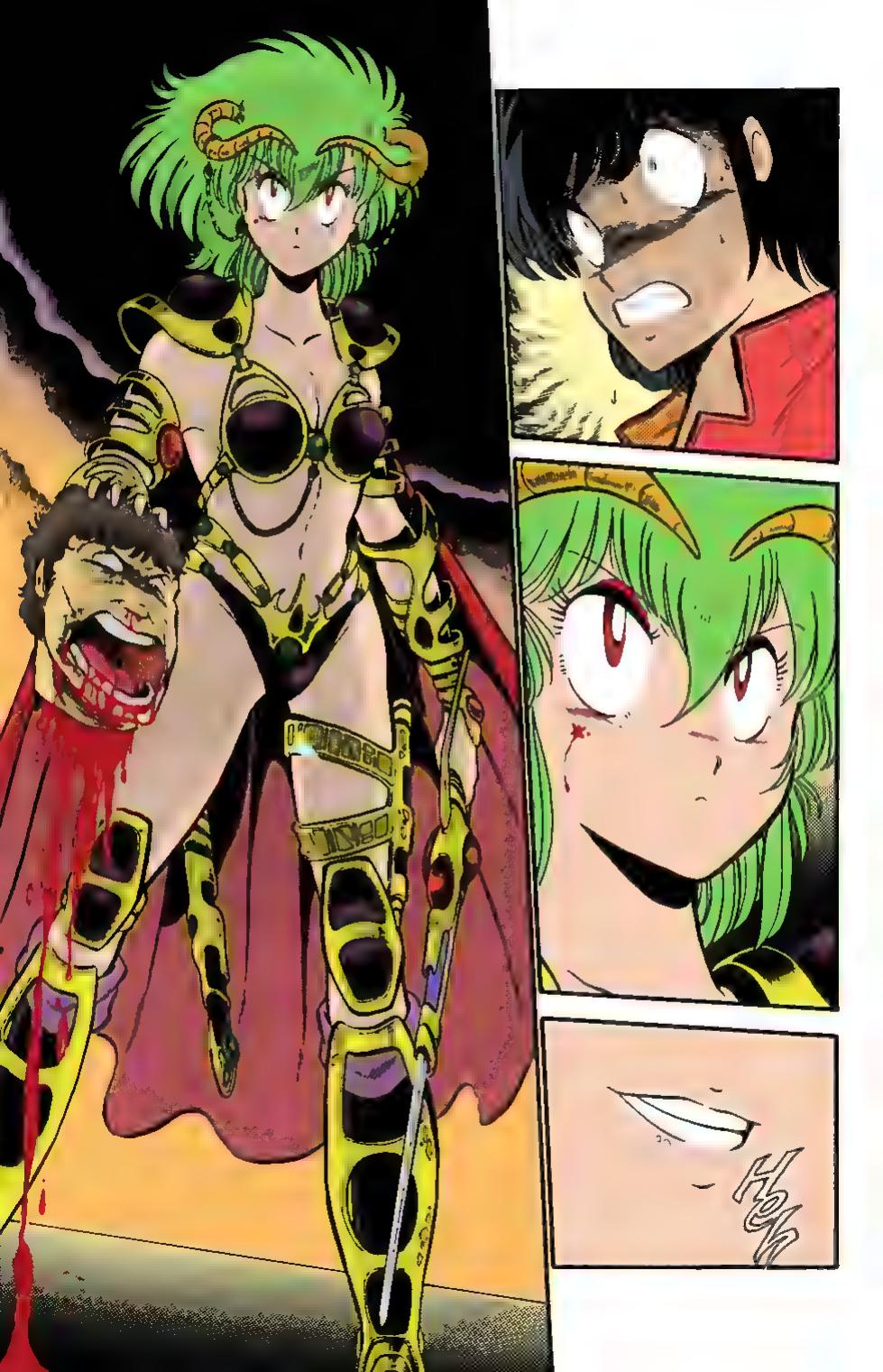

KGHK
KGHK
KGHK

KGHK

OH SHIT!



Hah


Hah

SKSSH

WHOA! W-WAIT!
HEY, DAMMIT!
SKR-ASH
WHMP
!!

CAN'T GET AWAY
KUNK
DAMN IT, YOU'RE NOT GETTING ME WITHOUT A FIGHT!
KRANGG

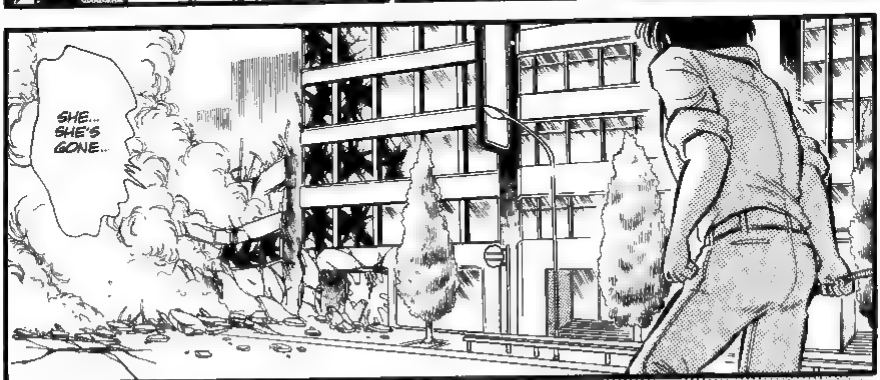
WHSSS
HKK!
KANG
WHSSS
WHANG
KANG
KANG
HUHH
HUHH
HUHH
HUHH
HUHH
HUHH

KASHANGG
YOU LITTLE BITCH!
!!
SSST

SHANGG
CHNK

WHA...

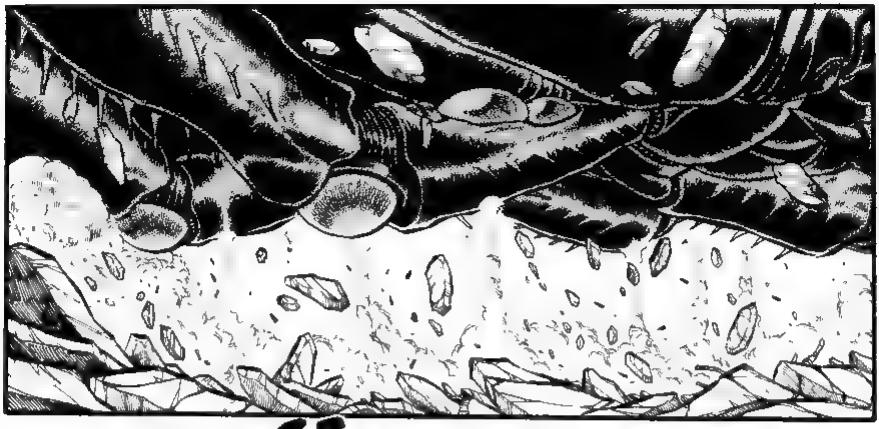
WAIT! WAIT A MINUTE!
WHO ARE YOU?!


SHE... SHE'S GONE...

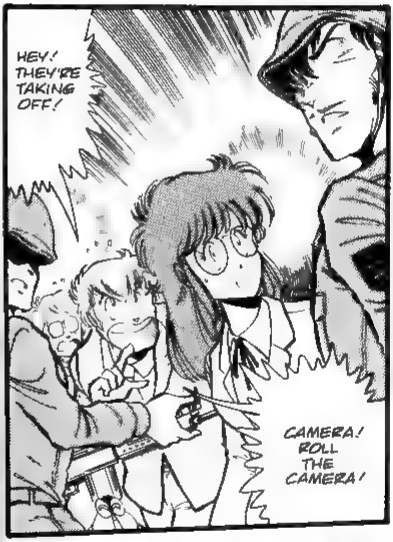
WUMP

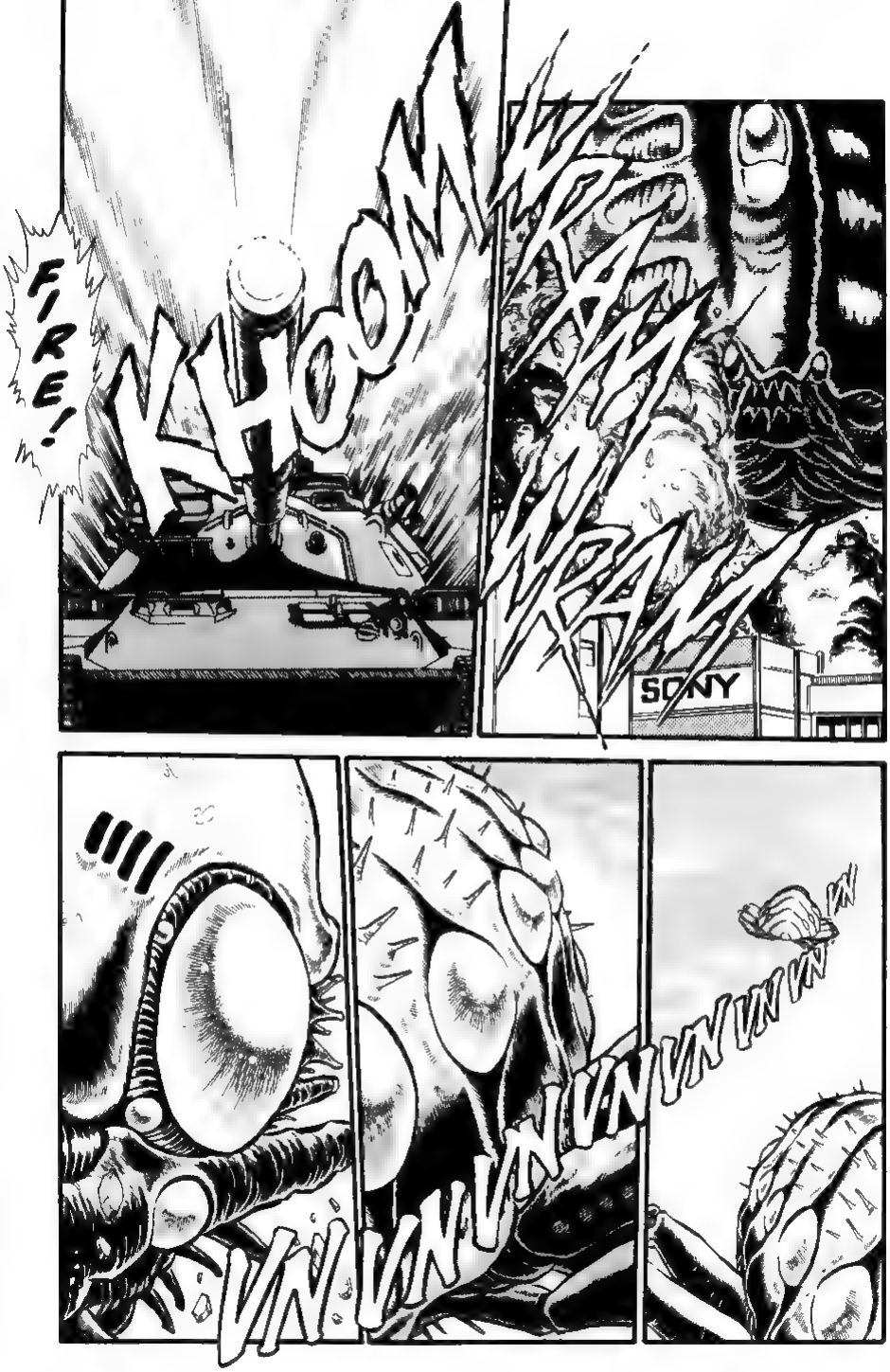
THAT GIRL... WHO WAS SHE?

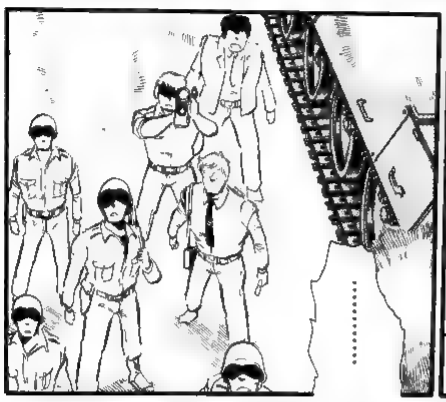
GNGNGNGNGNGN
THE TANKS ARE HERE!
COME ON! MOVE!!
THE PEOPLE HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING YOU CAN'T JUST CENSOR
ZUNUN
!
!!
WAIT! WHAT'S THAT?



UNUNUN


HEY! THEY'RE TAKING OFF!
CAMERA! ROLL THE CAMERA!


FIRE!
KHOOM!
KRAK
KRAK
SONY
!!!!
VN VN VN VN VN VN VN VN



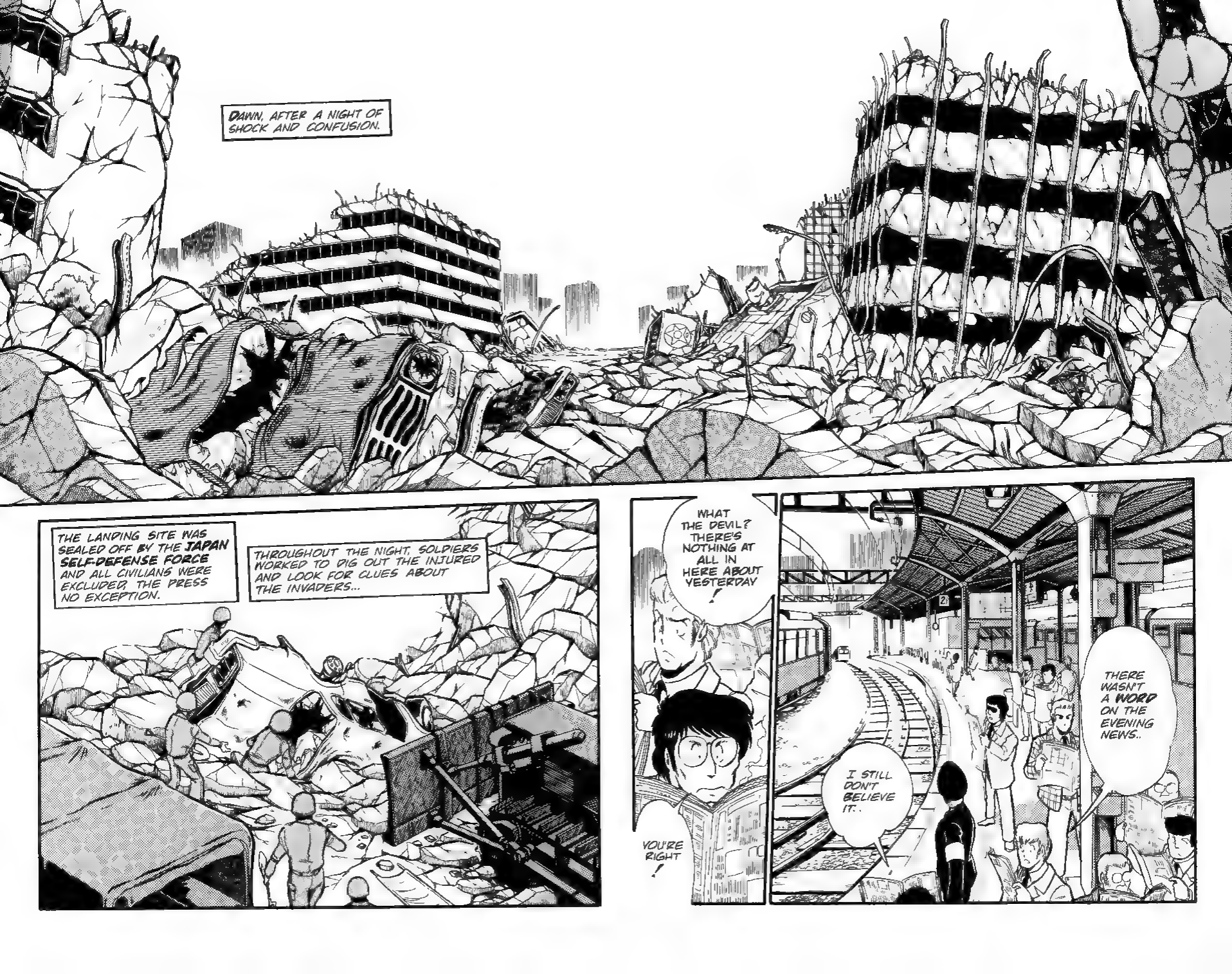
THEY'VE GONE

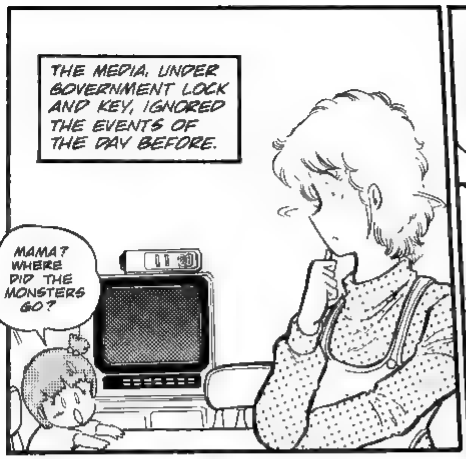
WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

NOBODY KNOWS..

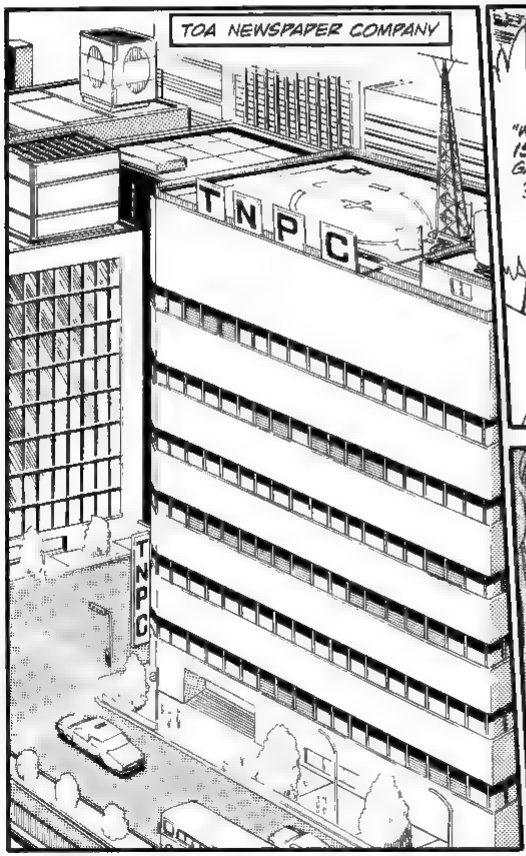
NOW IT REALLY BEGINS.

CONFIRM PRESENCE OF INTELLIGENT LIFEFORMS..
INFESTING OUR BEAUTIFUL MOTHER WORLD
VN VN VN VN VN VN


DAWN, AFTER A NIGHT OF SHOCK AND CONFUSION.
THE LANDING SITE WAS SEALED OFF BY THE JAPAN SELF-DEFENSE FORCE AND ALL CIVILIANS WERE EXCLUDED, THE PRESS NO EXCEPTION.
THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT, SOLDIERS WORKED TO DIG OUT THE INJURED AND LOOK FOR CLUES ABOUT THE INVADERS...
WHAT THE DEVIL? THERE'S NOTHING AT ALL IN HERE ABOUT YESTERDAY!
YOU'RE RIGHT!
I STILL DON'T BELIEVE IT..
THERE WASN'T A WORD ON THE EVENING NEWS..


THE MEDIA, UNDER GOVERNMENT LOCK AND KEY, IGNORED THE EVENTS OF THE DAY BEFORE.
MAMA? WHERE DID THE MONSTERS GO?

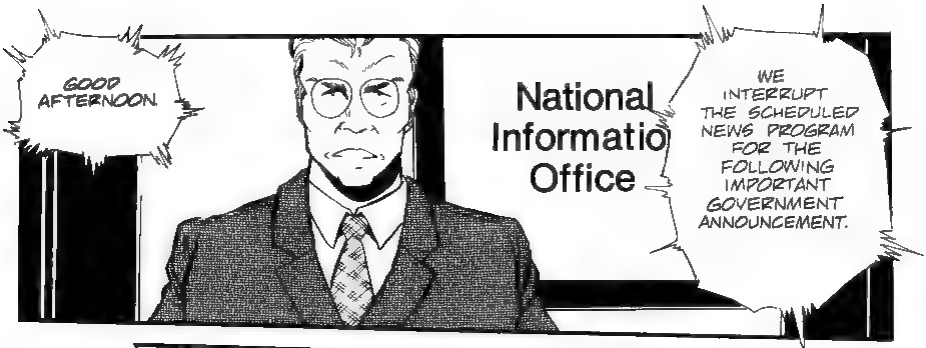
HEY, THE GOVERNMENT'S GONNA MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT AT NOON!
IF WE BREAK INTO THE AV ROOM WE CAN ALL SEE IT!


TOA NEWSPAPER COMPANY
TNPC
TNPC

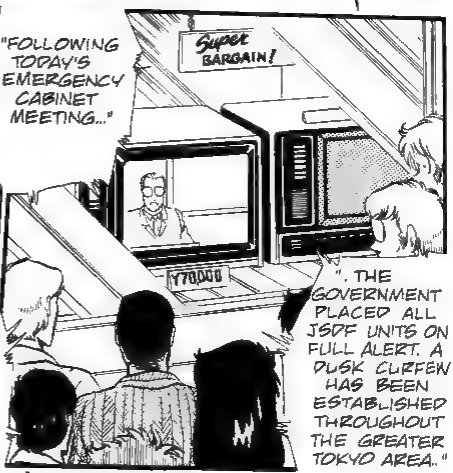
"WHAT IS THIS GARBAGE ?!"
UNION DAILY
U.S.-SOVIET NUKE TALKS RESUME
GORBACHEV BLOGS WITH TOKYO GIANTS
WASA NEWSPAPER
TAX HIKE IN THE MIRROR? COMMISSION TO STAY?

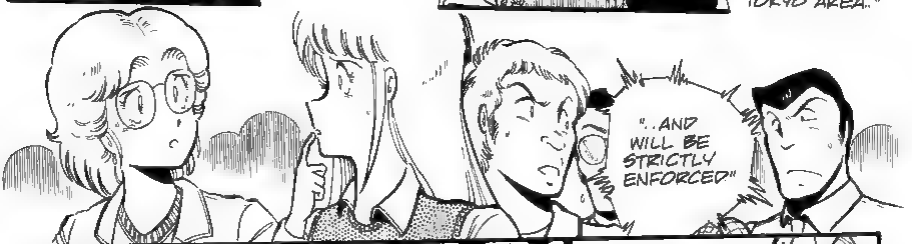
EVERYONE IN THE COUNTRY KNOWS ABOUT THOSE MONSTERS!

RIGHT ?
WHERE ARE THE EDITORS ?
BLOODY PHONES WERE STILL RINGING OFF THE HOOK AT TEN LAST NIGHT
WHY THE HELL DIDN'T WE RUN ANYTHING ?
IN CONFERENCE. TRYING TO DECIDE HOW TO HANDLE THE EVENING NEWS.
DAMN RIGHT-- THIS ONLY MAKES THINGS WORSE.
MY EARS ARE STILL RINGING..
"HEY, IT'S NOON! HIT THE TV!"
"TIME FOR THE '12 O'CLOCK FOLLIES,' HUH?"
HOW ARE THEY GONNA EXPLAIN THIS ONE?
YEAH, REALLY..

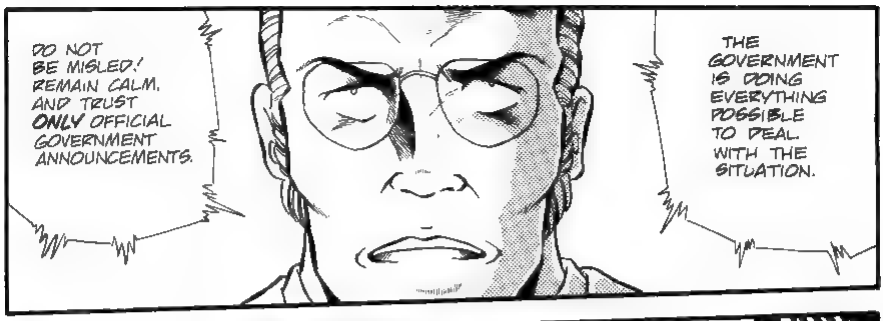

GOOD AFTERNOON.
National Informatio Office
WE INTERRUPT THE SCHEDULED NEWS PROGRAM FOR THE FOLLOWING IMPORTANT GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENT.

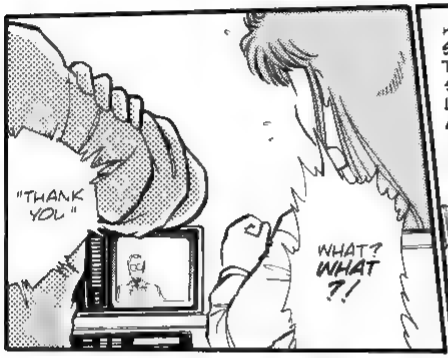
"REGARDING THE MONSTERS THAT APPEARED IN THE TOKYO REGION YESTERDAY, THE GOVERNMENT"
"...HAS ORDERED THE AGENCIES CONCERNED TO STUDY THE SITUATION."

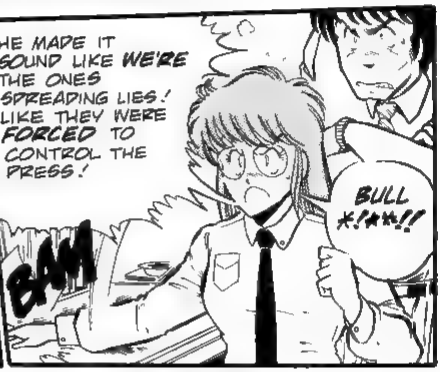

"FOLLOWING TODAY'S EMERGENCY CABINET MEETING..."
Super BARGAIN!
Y70,000
"...THE GOVERNMENT PLACED ALL JSDF UNITS ON FULL ALERT. A DUSK CURFEW HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED THROUGHOUT THE GREATER TOKYO AREA..."


"...AND WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED"

"VARIOUS RUMORS AND IRRESPONSIBLE SPECULATION ARE LIKELY TO APPEAR IN THE PRESS..."

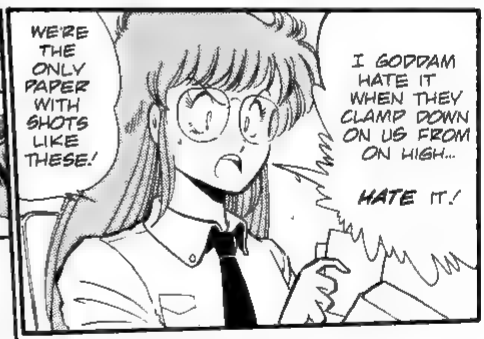

DO NOT BE MISLED! REMAIN CALM, AND TRUST ONLY OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS.
THE GOVERNMENT IS DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO DEAL WITH THE SITUATION.


"THANK YOU"
WHAT? WHAT?!


HE MADE IT SOUND LIKE WE'RE THE ONES SPREADING LIES! LIKE THEY WERE FORCED TO CONTROL THE PRESS!
BAM
BULL *!**!!

DAMMIT ANYWAY!
POOR TETSUYA.. WHAT A WASTE...

"YEAH, THAT'S FOR SURE.."


WE'RE THE ONLY PAPER WITH SHOTS LIKE THESE!
I GODDAM HATE IT WHEN THEY CLAMP DOWN ON US FROM ON HIGH...
HATE IT!

YEAH... BUT I WONDER IF TETSUYA WOULD AGREE WITH YOU...?
HUH?

.....
BAM
BAM

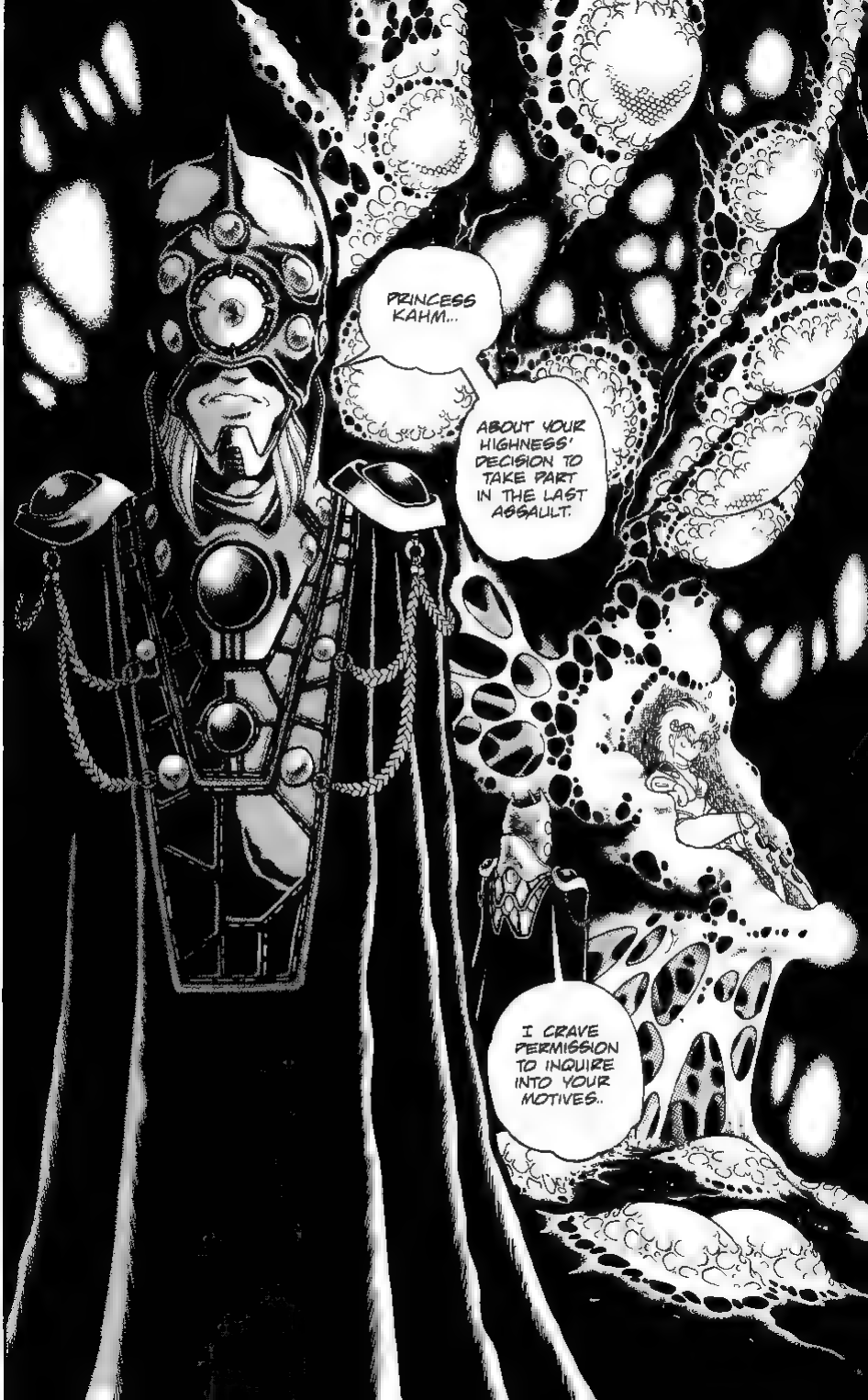
ARE YOU BRAIN-DEAD OR SOMETHING ?!
HEY!
HUH ?
DON'T YOU EVEN CARE ?!
YOUR PICTURES, YOUR SCOOP, GONE!

AHH. NO BIGGIE.
ACTUALLY, I COULDN'T CARE LESS.

YOU GUTLESS WIMP !
AND YOU CALL YOURSELF A PHOTOJOUR-NALIST ?!

YOU'RE COMING TO LUNCH WITH ME, AND NO ARGUMENT !
I'LL GIVE YOU A CRASH COURSE IN WHAT THE NEWS BUSINESS IS ALL ABOUT...!
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT ALREADY !
I'M COMING, I'M COMING! JUST LET GO, WILL YOU!

VVN
VVN VVN VVN!


PRINCESS KAHM...
ABOUT YOUR HIGHNESS' DECISION TO TAKE PART IN THE LAST ASSAULT.
I CRAVE PERMISSION TO INQUIRE INTO YOUR MOTIVES..

HUH! SOMETHING BOTHERING YOU, PROGRESSO?
WE ARE UNDER ORDERS FROM HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY TO CARRY OUT A RECONNAISSANCE, NOTHING MORE.
YOU HAVE SOME COMPLAINT ABOUT MY GOING DOWN THERE?!
I MOST CERTAINLY DO!
YOU'VE REVEALED OUR PRESENCE TO THE ENEMY!
YOU'RE A NAGGING OLD FOOL!
THEIR ARMIES ARE A JOKE. DESTROY THEM! GO ON, DO IT RIGHT NOW!
THAT IS QUITE IMPOSSIBLE.
OUR MISSION IS TO INVESTIGATE THE PLANET AND REPORT BACK TO THE EMPEROR. THAT IS ALL.

OH, COME OFF IT. THEY DON'T EVEN HAVE A WORLD GOVERNMENT WHAT'S THERE TO BE AFRAID OF?
IF YOU'D SEEN THEIR PATHETIC SOLDIERS FOR YOURSELF, WHY, EVEN YOU'D..
.....

SEND OUT AN ARMORED RECON SHIP!
A MEGATRON, YOUR HIGHNESS?

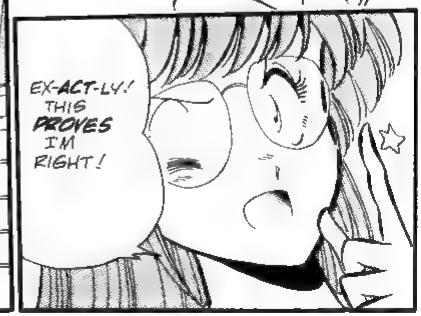
PROGRESSO!
YOUR HIGHNESS?
IS SOMETHING WRONG?
I WISH TO SEARCH FOR SOMETHING!
NOW DO AS I BID!

WELL? DON'T YOU THINK IT'S STRANGE?
I DUNNO...
COFFEE

OH, YOU "DUNNO", DO YOU? WELL, NUMBER ONE, THIS ISN'T A WAR. THE GOVERNMENT'S TAKING TOO HARD A LINE!
IF ANYTHING, IT'S A NATURAL DISASTER
NORMALLY, THEY'D RELEASE THE INFO

INSTEAD, THEY'RE TRAMPLING ON OUR RIGHTS, KNOWING THAT'LL GET EVERYONE ANNOYED
DAMMIT, SOMETHING'S GOING DOWN I KNOW IT.

NOT YOUR "SHADOW CABINET" AGAIN.


EX-ACT-LY! THIS PROVES I'M RIGHT!

"THE 'SHADOW CABINET'--THE SCOOP SHE'D BEEN WORKING ON FOR AGES."

"IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE GLOBAL IN SWEEP, A CONCEALED NETWORK OF HAWKS IN BOTH EAST AND WEST, SECRETLY CONTROLLING INTERNATIONAL POLITICS..."

"PERSONALLY, I FIGURED SHE WAS OFF HER ROCKER."

"STILL, TOP JSDF BRASS **HAD** BEEN MEETING DAILY WITH MILITARY ATTACHES FROM ALL THE EMBASSIES."

"I'D BEEN DRAGGED ALONG TO STAKEOUTS EVERY NIGHT FOR **WEEKS**, TRYING TO GET IT ON FILM."

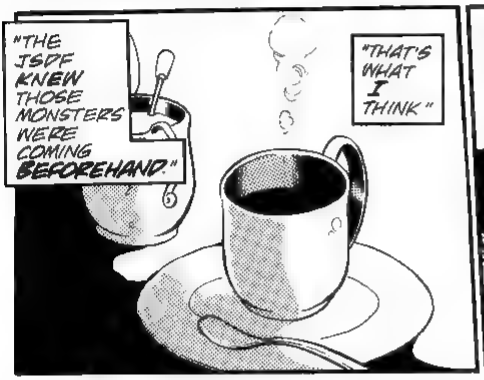
BUT HEY, WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH THOSE MONSTERS?

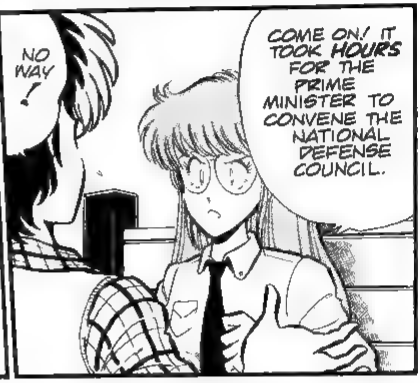
YOU'RE SUCH A **CLOT**, SOMETIMES!

DON'T YOU REMEMBER HOW LONG IT TOOK THE HELICOPTERS TO GET THERE YESTERDAY?

LESS THAN **TEN MINUTES**!

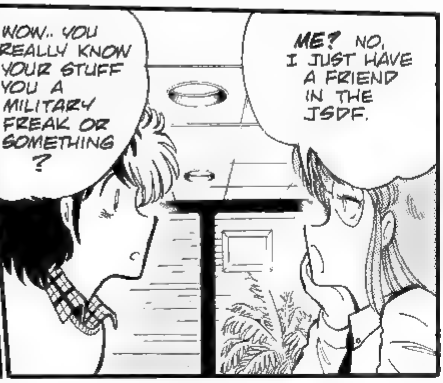
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, THEY WERE ON THE BALL..
THE POLICE HADN'T EVEN ARRIVED YET!
THE SOLDIERS LIT INTO THOSE MONSTERS WITHOUT ANY SIGN OF SURPRISE..
AND COPS DIDN'T SEAL OFF THE AREA-- THOSE GUARDS WERE SOLDIERS.


"THE JSDF KNEW THOSE MONSTERS WERE COMING BEFOREHAND."
"THAT'S WHAT I THINK"


NO WAY!
COME ON! IT TOOK HOURS FOR THE PRIME MINISTER TO CONVENE THE NATIONAL DEFENSE COUNCIL.

THE JSDF KNEW AND WAS PREPARED. NOTHING ELSE MAKES SENSE.
HELICOPTERS AREN'T INTERCEPTORS. THEY DON'T KEEP THEM ON SCRAMBLE ALERT.

AND THE DIVISIONS AROUND TOKYO AREN'T EQUIPPED WITH ANTI-TANK CHOPPERS ANYWAY!
THOSE WERE FROM THE NORTHERN ARMY IN HOKKAIDO-- THE BEST WE'VE GOT!


WOW.. YOU REALLY KNOW YOUR STUFF YOU A MILITARY FREAK OR SOMETHING?
ME? NO, I JUST HAVE A FRIEND IN THE JSDF.

A GOOD FRIEND...
AHA! NOW THERE'S A STORY! THAT KIND OF FRIEND, EH?
JUST WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?!
OH, WOW! YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN THE EXPRESSION ON YOUR FACE!
I DON'T HAVE TO LISTEN TO THIS FROM A BRAT LIKE YOU!
!
WHA... WHAT IS IT?
WHAAAAAT!

VVRROOOOSSHH!
LOOK OUT!

YOU.. YOU OK ?!

I.. THINK SO...

WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT ?!

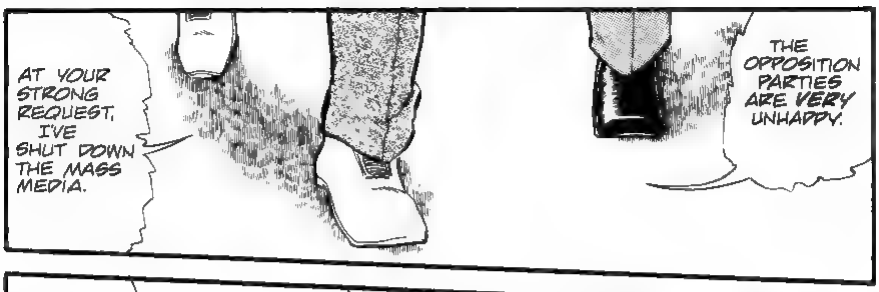
GOD ONLY KNOWS.. ONE OF THEIR BUDDIES ?

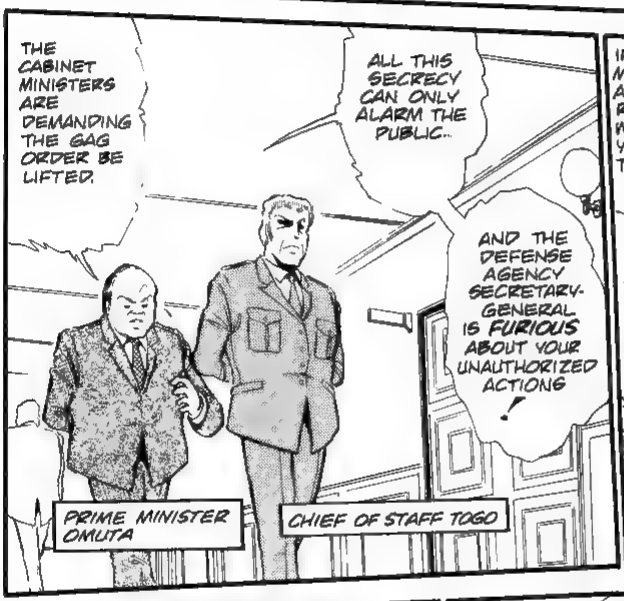
IT'S HEADING FOR THE RUINS !

WE GONNA FOLLOW ?

DO YOU EVEN HAVE TO ASK ?! GET US A CAR !

THE JAPANESE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT


AT YOUR STRONG REQUEST, I'VE SHUT DOWN THE MASS MEDIA.
THE OPPOSITION PARTIES ARE VERY UNHAPPY.


THE CABINET MINISTERS ARE DEMANDING THE GAG ORDER BE LIFTED.
ALL THIS SECRECY CAN ONLY ALARM THE PUBLIC...
AND THE DEFENSE AGENCY SECRETARY-GENERAL IS FURIOUS ABOUT YOUR UNAUTHORIZED ACTIONS!
PRIME MINISTER OMUTA
CHIEF OF STAFF TOGO

IF THOSE MONSTERS ARE REALLY WHAT YOU SAY THEY ARE...
THEN THERE'S A LIMIT TO HOW MUCH WE CAN KEEP SECRET.

YOUR JOB IS TO KEEP THE GOVERNMENT IN LINE. DO IT.
WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THE REST

GENERAL TOGO!
!

THE PRESIDENT HAS REACHED A DECISION.
EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, THE 7TH FLEET AND ALL U.S. FORCES IN JAPAN ARE AVAILABLE FOR COMBAT OPERATIONS IN THE FAR EAST THEATRE.
ADMIRAL SCHIRRA COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, U.S FORCES JAPAN

PLEASE CONVEY MY THANKS.

JUS...JUST A MINUTE! THAT MEANS JAPAN. JAPAN WILL BECOME A BATTLEFIELD!

I IMAGINE SO.

A NIGHTMARE!
THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING...

WHY DON'T YOU JUST GO HOME, MR. PRIME MINISTER
WE'RE EXPECTING AN IMPORTANT CALL ON THE HOTLINE

BY THE WAY, I HEAR ONE OF THOSE SHIPS HAS REAPPEARED OVER TOKYO AGAIN, A SMALL ONE. WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO?
WELL.

I'VE PUT OUR AIR DEFENSE UNITS ON ALERT.
BUT SO FAR, IT'S JUST FLYING AROUND THE SITE OF YESTERDAY'S LANDING.

WAIT AND SEE. THEN. Hmm ?
BUT WHY TOKYO, AGAIN?

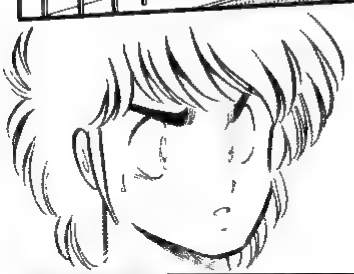
IN ALL HONESTY, I HAVEN'T A CLUE.

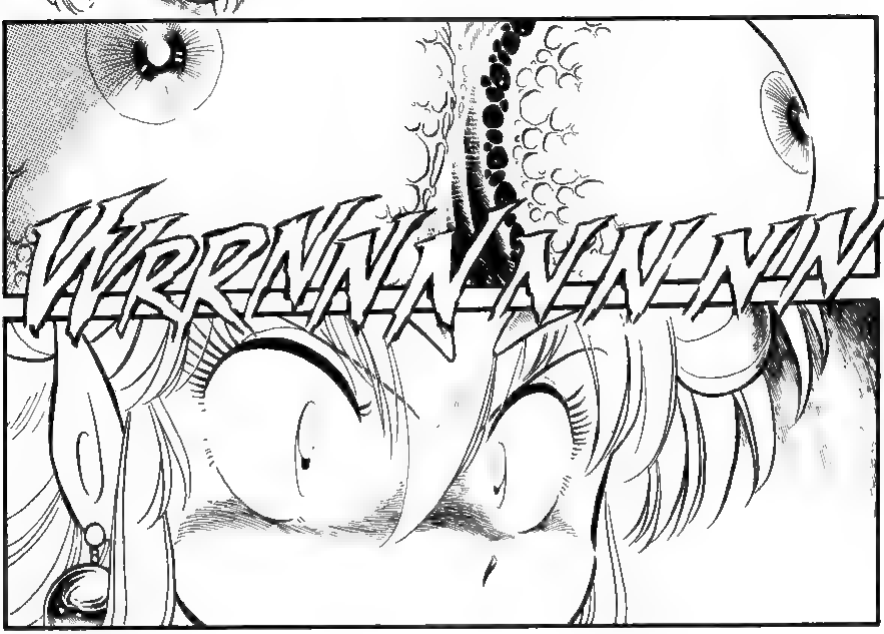
VRROOOSH

WHUP WHUP WHUP
THIRD WING, DO YOU READ ?
THE MONSTER IS HEADING YOUR WAY, PRESENT HEIGHT EIGHTY METERS. ITS ALTITUDE SHIFTS ARE BECOMING MORE EXTREME..
WHUP WHUP WHUP

IT'S REALLY BOUNCING UP AND DOWN!
BUT IT'S NOT ATTACKING ANYTHING...

IT'S ALMOST AS IF IT WERE... SEARCHING FOR SOMETHING..


NO.. IT CAN'T BE...


VVRRNNNNNNNN

HUH! HASN'T FOUND IT YET!
I HATE ARMORED RECONS WHEN THEY GET TOO OLD... SENILE!
"PROBABLY AN OFFICER."
"THAT ALIEN... HE WAS DRESSED DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHERS I KILLED..."
"IF SO, THEN MY SWORD IS HIS WAR TROPHY..."
"LOSING MY OWN SWORD! ME!"
I SHOULD NOT HAVE LET HIM LIVE!!

PRINCESS KAHM ?

YES ?

WHAT NOW? ANOTHER SERMON ?

A SHIP WILL BE ARRIVING ANY MINUTE NOW, FROM THE CENTRAL FLEET. A SHIP TO TAKE YOU HOME..

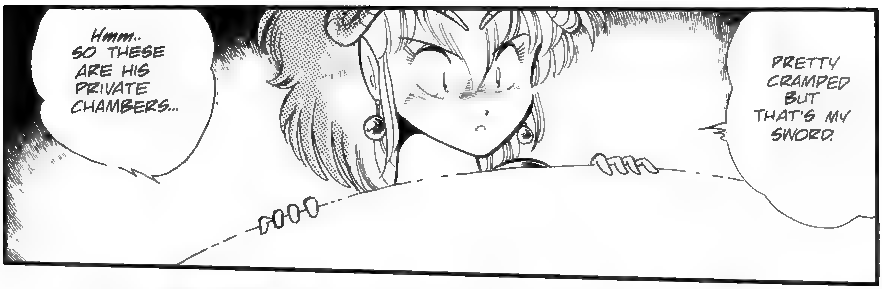
WHA. ?

YOU SHOULD PREPARE YOURSELF

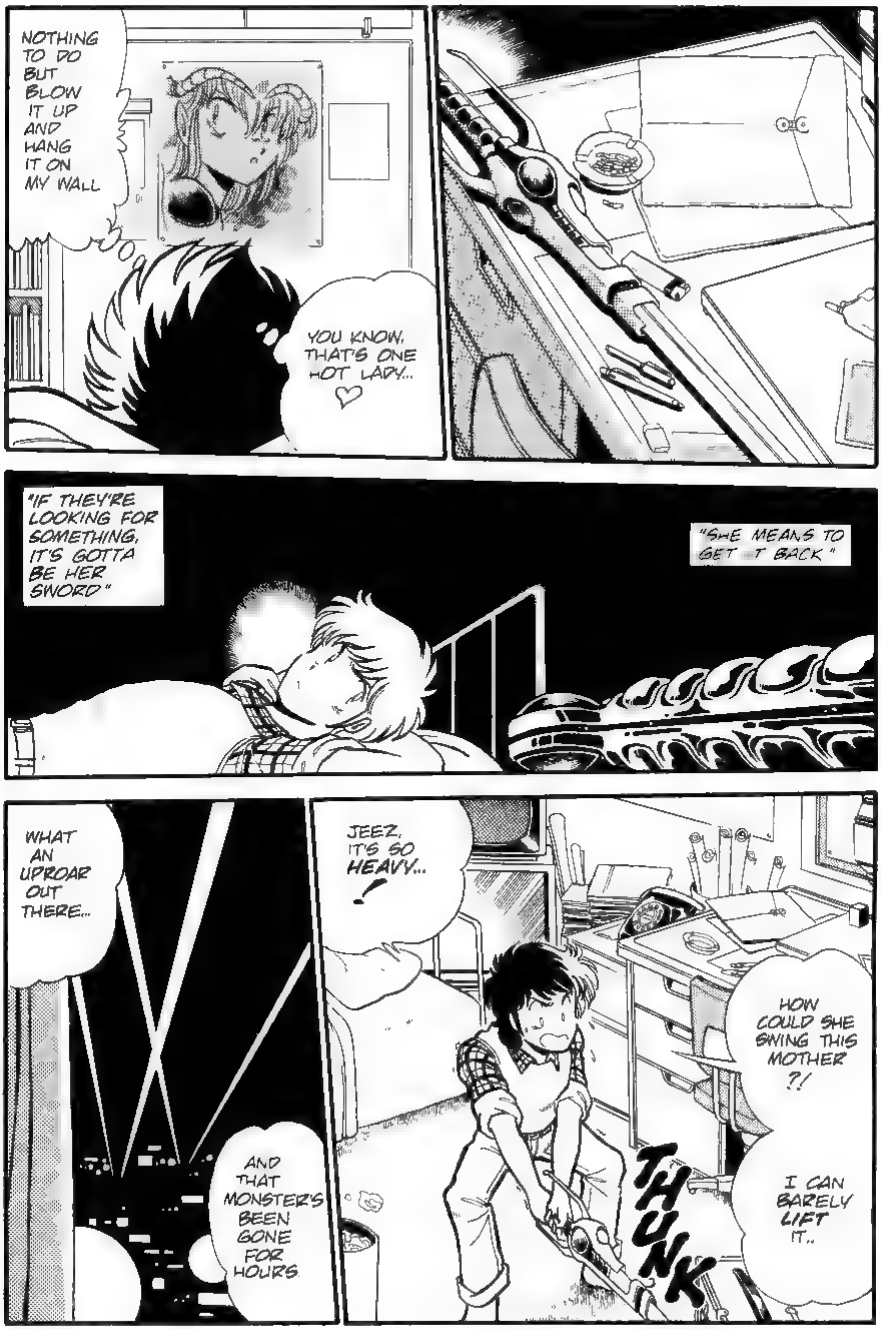
I REQUESTED NO SUCH SHIP!

SEND IT BACK IMMEDIATELY !

HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY THE EMPEROR DISPATCHED THE SHIP HIMSELF...
WHA...! UH. OH...
HE MUST HAVE FOUND OUT I STOWED AWAY...
JUST GREAT!
NOT THAT IT HASN'T HAPPENED BEFORE.
!
Hah! FOUND IT!
NOTHING! NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS! DON'T LOOK! GO AWAY!
FOUND WHAT, YOUR HIGHNESS?


Hmm.. SO THESE ARE HIS PRIVATE CHAMBERS...
PRETTY CRAMPED BUT THAT'S MY SWORD.

THIS GIRL'S NOT GOING HOME FOR ANYONE!
NOT WHEN I'VE GOT WORK TO DO..


NOTHING TO DO BUT BLOW IT UP AND HANG IT ON MY WALL
YOU KNOW, THAT'S ONE HOT LADY...
"IF THEY'RE LOOKING FOR SOMETHING, IT'S GOTTA BE HER SWORD"
"SHE MEANS TO GET IT BACK"
WHAT AN UPROAR OUT THERE...
AND THAT MONSTER'S BEEN GONE FOR HOURS
JEEZ, IT'S SO HEAVY...!
HOW COULD SHE SWING THIS MOTHER ?!
I CAN BARELY LIFT IT..
THUNK

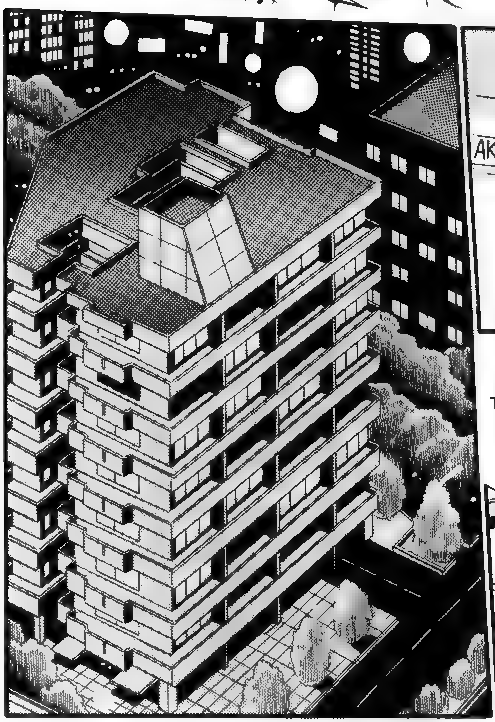
"A BLONDE BOMBSHELL WITH A TWO-TON SWORD... WHAT **WAS** SHE?"

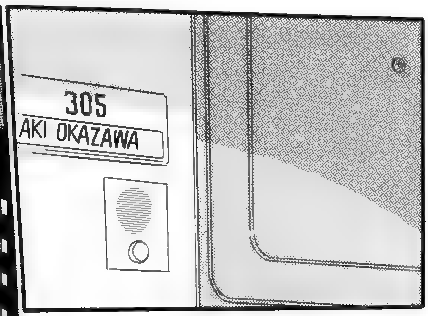
"WHAT DOES SHE HAVE TO DO WITH THOSE MONSTERS?"

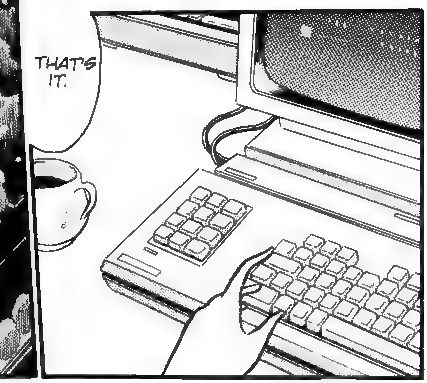
"WHERE'D SHE COME FROM?"

MAYBE I SHOULD SHOW AKI THE PICTURE AFTER ALL... GET HER OPINION.

SHE'LL BLOW HER TOP WHEN SHE FINDS OUT I WAS HIDING IT...







PHEW!
DONE AT LAST.
NOW TO CONVINCE THE BIGWIGS UPSTAIRS...
FINALLY, THE PAYOFF! AFTER AL- THAT WORK...
BING BONG
WHO COULD IT BE AT THIS HOUR...?
YES, WHO IS--
HELLO, AKI
MA... MASATO!

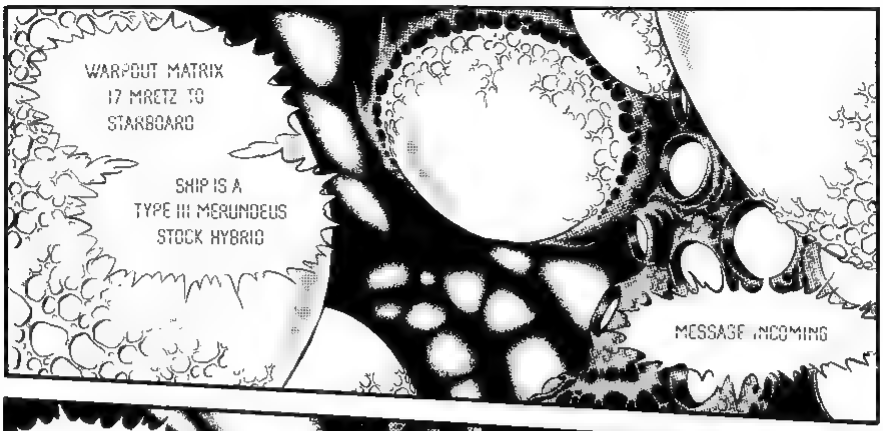
WELL, UH, HELLO!
WHAT'S THE OCCASION?
YOUR PLACE... IT'S JUST THE SAME
NOTHING'S CHANGED SINCE THEN..
WHAT'S UP?
OH, YEAH..
COME AWAY WITH ME.
NOW, RIGHT AWAY!
WHAT.?!
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING!
IT'S THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT!
AKI...
I CANT EXPLAIN WHY, NOW. JUST HURRY!
YOU CANT.. EXPLAIN?
"YOU NEVER EXPLAIN ANYTHING NOT ANYTHING THAT MATTERS"
"YOU HAVENT CHANGED A BIT, MASATO.."

DON'T YOU THINK I'VE FORGOTTEN!! THREE YEARS AGO! WE WEREN'T EVEN TOGETHER A MONTH!
THEN YOU JUST VANISHED! WALKED OUT ON ME!
THE NEXT THING I KNOW, YOU'RE IN THE JSDF !
BUT YOU NEVER EXPLAINED ANYTHING! EVER !!
WHY?! JUST WHY WON'T YOU EVER TELL ME ANY--
!!
RRRINGG
RRRINGG
NOW WHAT'S THE OLD LADY UP TO ?
RRINGG
NOT AT HOME, JUST WHEN I NEED HER..

HEY, MY LIFE'S IN DANGER, HERE!
KACHING!
W. WELL, IF SHE COMES, I'LL JUST HAND IT RIGHT OVER.
YEAH... THAT'S THE BEST PLAN...
THE HELI-COPTER ?
IT'S WAITING UP AHEAD.
FASTER! WE DON'T HAVE TIME !!

UNDERSTAND, SOLDIER? FROM NOW ON, NO ONE ENTERS THE BUNKER!
I DON'T CARE IF IT'S THE PRIME MINISTER HIMSELF-- IF THEY TRY TO ENTER THIS ELEVATOR, YOU'RE AUTHORIZED TO SHOOT TO KILL!
YES, SIR!
IT'S FINALLY TIME TO USE THIS PLACE.
THE NEXT MOVE THEY MAKE..
WE MEET THEM HEAD ON!
MMMMMM!
VSHH
THE HUMAN RACE HAS NEVER HAD TO MAKE SUCH A SACRIFICE...
BUT THERE IS NO RETREAT !!

FRIENDLY WARSHIP
ENTERING EARTH ORBIT!
VGZZZT


WARPOUT MATRIX 17 MRETZ TO STARBOARD
SHIP IS A TYPE III MERUNDEUS STOCK HYBRID
MESSAGE INCOMING

OPENING CENTRAL CIRCUIT NOW
THIS IS MOST UNFORTUNATE..

WELL?! HAVE YOU FOUND PRINCESS KAHM YET?!
SIR.

WE'RE CONDUCTING AN EXHAUSTIVE SEARCH OF THE SHIP.
HER HIGHNESS WAS IN HER QUARTERS JUST A FEW MINUTES AGO, SIR

NO. SHE COULD NOT HAVE GONE DOWN AGAIN...
WHAT DOES SHE THINK SHE'S DOING?!

JSDF CENTRAL COMMAND HQ
CONDITION RED!
CONDITION RED!
DIRECT CHANNELS OPEN TO GUAM AND THE PHILIPPINES.
FRONT-LINE COMBAT AIRCRAFT ON SCRAMBLE ALERT!
ECCM FULL POWER!
RAISE THE REFLECTOR SHIELDS!
THE EARTH BELONGS TO EARTHLINGS, BY GOD! WE'LL MEET FORCE WITH FORCE!
WHO CARES WHO GOT HERE FIRST!!

WHAT?!
DRIPPING
SHE'S NOT HERE ?!

"WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS PROGRESSO?!"
"PERHAPS YOU'D CARE TO EXPLAIN...!"
LISTEN!
I PLEDGE TO SPARE NO EFFORT IN THIS SEARCH..
ENOUGH!!
HIS AUGUST MAJESTY THE EMPEROR HAS PLACED HIS ABSOLUTE TRUST IN ME, BATTIA BUREITIN ROU-- PERSONAL FRIEND OF THE PRINCESS KAHM.
YOU CANNOT BE TRUSTED WITH THIS!
I'LL FIND HER MYSELF!

NO! N-WAIT!
IT IS FORBIDDEN TO TRESPASS ON THE SACRED MOTHER PLANET!
AND WHY NOT?!
HM?
PRINCESS KAHM RASHLY WENT PLANETSIDE ON HER OWN TO FIGHT WITH THOSE CREATURES..
OUR GLORIOUS EMPEROR HIMSELF WILL DECIDE WHETHER TO INVADE OR NOT, AND ONLY AFTER ANALYSING MY REPORT.
AND NOW YOU PROPOSE TO TAKE DOWN A WARSHIP?! THIS IS TOO MUCH!
WE MAY BOTH BE LEVEL ONE OFFICERS, BUT I OUTRANK YOU IN ABILITY!
SILENCE! HOW DARE YOU SPEAK TO ME THUS!
YOU DONT INTEND TO TAKE YOUR SHIP DOWN, DO YOU!? I CANNOT PERMIT IT! I WILL NOT PERMIT IT!

"IT'S ALL THERE IN 'THE CHRONICLES OF HEAVEN AND EARTH', THE EPIC POEM OF OUR SANTOMASKU EMPIRE."

"'HEAR YE, ALL LIVING THINGS.' HEAR YE OF OUR MOTHER WORLD, HOME OF THE ANCESTORS, PROVINCE OF THE GODS OF CREATION...'"

"A PLACE WE MUST NEVER SULLY..."

"HAD YOU BUT SEEN THE FURY OF HIS MAJESTY WHEN HE HEARD IT WAS INFESTED WITH THOSE VERMIN..."

"SO I DO UNDERSTAND.

BUT..."

...BUT THIS IS A DIFFERENT MATTER, PROGRESSO!

DIFFERENT? IN WHAT WAY?

I AM ACTING ON THE DIRECT ORDERS OF THE EMPEROR-- "BRING BACK THE PRINCESS!"

OR WOULD YOU RATHER TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALLOWING HER TO STOW AWAY ON YOUR SHIP...?!

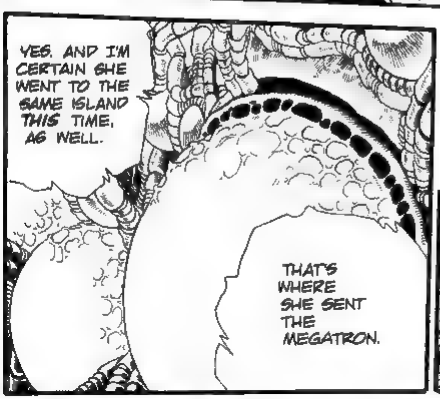
NGG..

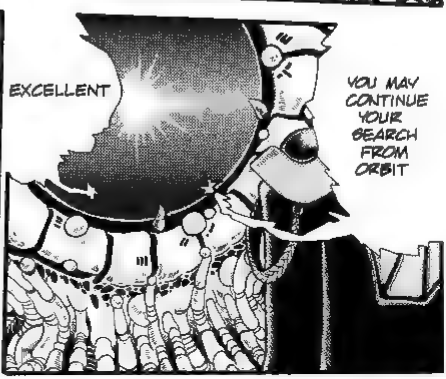
VERY WELL, THEN.

I GIVE MY PERMISSION, JUST THIS ONCE.

BUT YOU MUST NOT SCAR THE SACRED PLANET ITSELF...!

COME NOW... THEY'RE HARDLY STRONG ENOUGH TO FORCE US TO RESORT TO THAT!
ENOUGH OF THIS YOU'RE SURE OF THE PLACE WHERE THE PRINCESS FIRST LANDED?


YES. AND I'M CERTAIN SHE WENT TO THE SAME ISLAND THIS TIME, AS WELL.
THAT'S WHERE SHE SENT THE MEGATRON.

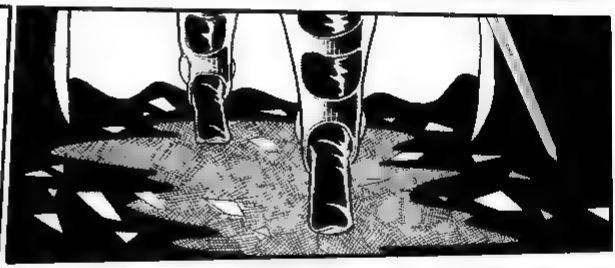

EXCELLENT
YOU MAY CONTINUE YOUR SEARCH FROM ORBIT

YOU PRESUMPTUOUS LITTLE UPSTART...

TAKE US DOWN!

SKRASSH

!



W-WAIT!
JUST WAIT A SEC!
I.. I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE, BUT..
HERE-- I'LL GIVE IT BACK.
.....
WSSH
GHAAA!
FWMP

AAA!
EYAAA!
AAA!
CHOK
GYAAA!!
hahh
hahh
hahh
hahh
WON'T THESE DREAMS EVER STOP? DAMN IT...

IS THAT HOW I'M GOING TO DIE, NEXT TIME I MEET HER...?

Ahh, JUST DON'T THINK ABOUT IT!
Huh! CAN'T I HAVE A GOOD DREAM FOR A CHANGE?

Ohhh... THE STARS ARE SO BEAUTIFUL, MIKURU!
JEEZ. YOU REALLY DON'T CARE, DO YOU, YOSHIKO?

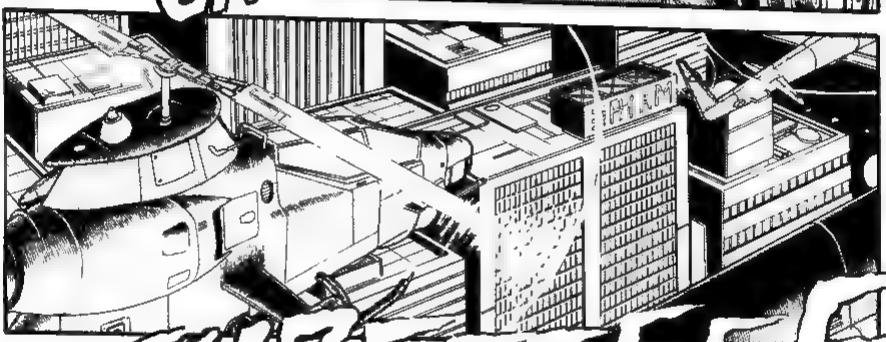
I TOLD YOU WE SHOULD'VE LEFT THAT BAR SOONER. WITH THAT DAMNED CURFEW ON, THERE AREN'T ANY TRAINS NOW!
IT'S ALL RIGHT...
...WALKING WILL SOBER YOU UP ANYWAY

IT'S AN HOUR AND A HALF HOME BY TRAIN!
WE'LL BE WALKING ALL BLOODY NIGHT!
HEY... DO YOU HEAR SOMETHING?

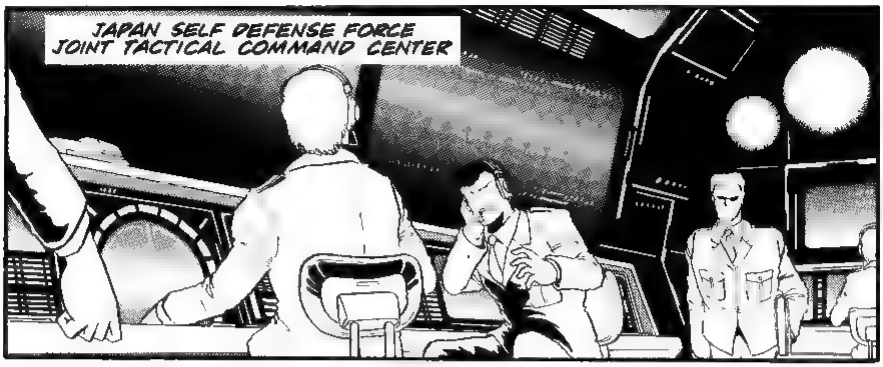
GNGNGNGN
YEAH... SO WHAT?
JUST A TRUCK OR SOMETHING...
MAYBE HE'LL GIVE US A RIDE...

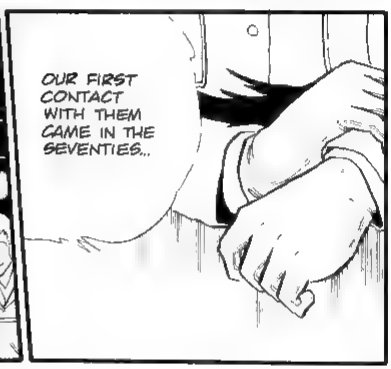
WHA..
WHA...
WHAT?!
NGNGNGNGN
WHAT THE HELL ?!
GCHUNK
GCHUNK

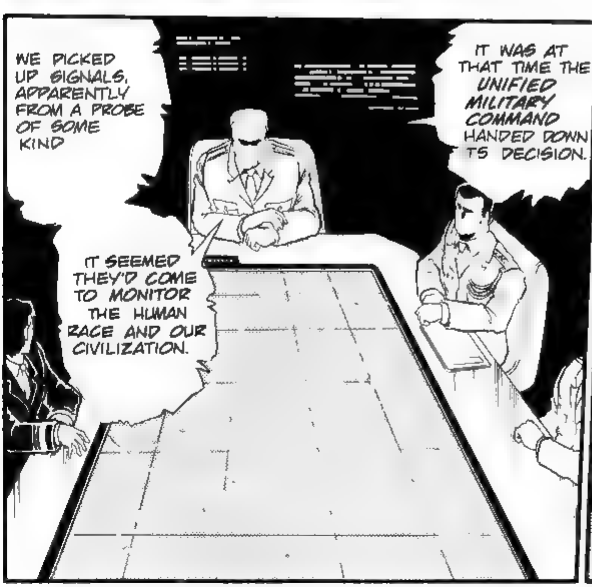
GN
GN
GN
GN



SHREEEEEE

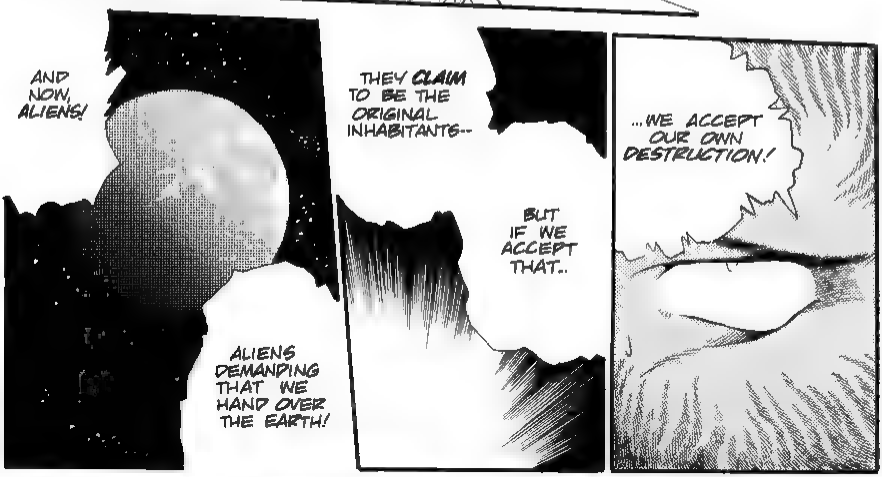

JAPAN SELF DEFENSE FORCE
JOINT TACTICAL COMMAND CENTER


OUR FIRST CONTACT WITH THEM CAME IN THE SEVENTIES...


WE PICKED UP SIGNALS, APPARENTLY FROM A PROBE OF SOME KIND
IT SEEMED THEY'D COME TO MONITOR THE HUMAN RACE AND OUR CIVILIZATION.
IT WAS AT THAT TIME THE UNIFIED MILITARY COMMAND HANDED DOWN TS DECISION.

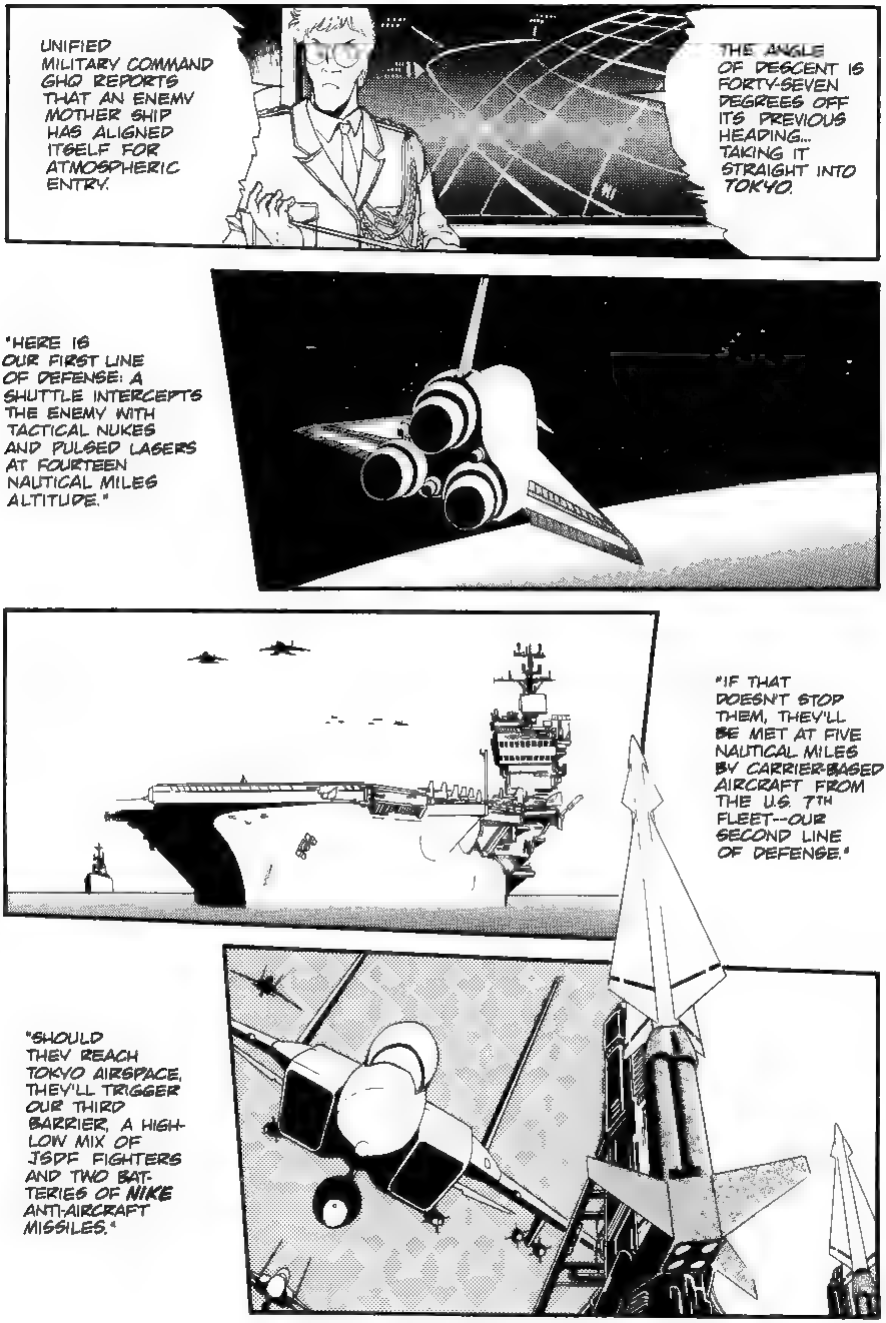
THERE COULD BE NO NEGOTIATED RESOLUTION TO NAKED AGGRESSION.

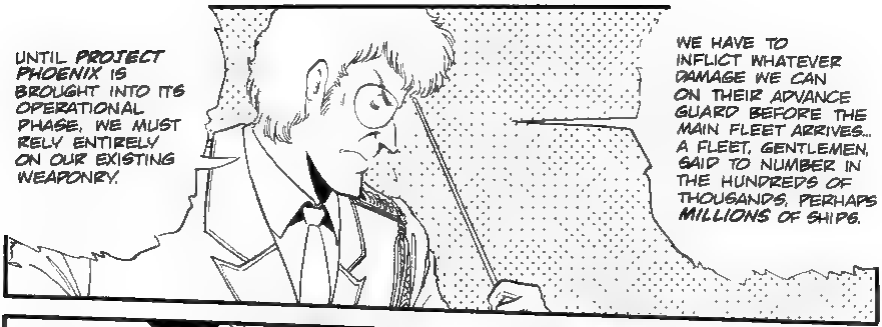
ENCOUNTERS BETWEEN DIFFERENT CIVILIZATIONS ALWAYS END IN TRAGEDY.
LOOK AT HISTORY--
THE CHRISTIAN CULTURES VERSUS THE ISLAMIC, EUROPEAN VERSUS THE EARLY AMERICAN.


AND NOW, ALIENS!
ALIENS DEMANDING THAT WE HAND OVER THE EARTH!
THEY CLAIM TO BE THE ORIGINAL INHABITANTS--
BUT IF WE ACCEPT THAT..
...WE ACCEPT OUR OWN DESTRUCTION!

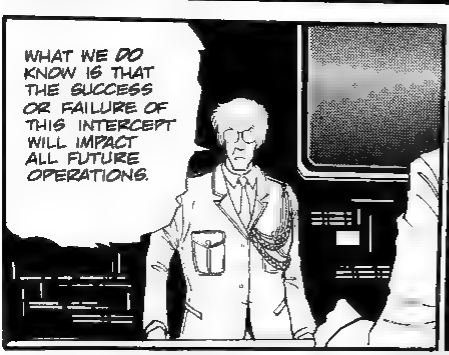
....
....
....
...

THANK YOU, GENERAL.
VEEP
GENTLEMEN, LET ME EXPLAIN OUR INTERCEPTION PLAN...

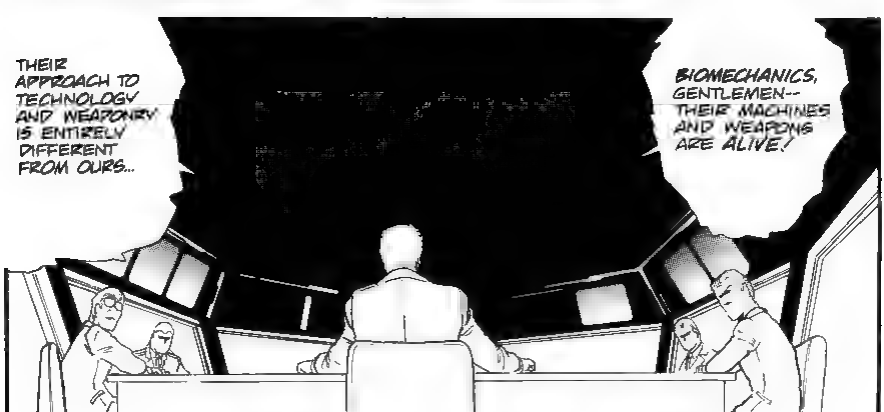

UNIFIED MILITARY COMMAND GHQ REPORTS THAT AN ENEMY MOTHER SHIP HAS ALIGNED ITSELF FOR ATMOSPHERIC ENTRY.
THE ANGLE OF DESCENT IS FORTY-SEVEN DEGREES OFF ITS PREVIOUS HEADING... TAKING IT STRAIGHT INTO TOKYO.
"HERE IS OUR FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE: A SHUTTLE INTERCEPTS THE ENEMY WITH TACTICAL NUKES AND PULSED LASERS AT FOURTEEN NAUTICAL MILES ALTITUDE."
"IF THAT DOESN'T STOP THEM, THEY'LL BE MET AT FIVE NAUTICAL MILES BY CARRIER-BASED AIRCRAFT FROM THE U.S. 7TH FLEET--OUR SECOND LINE OF DEFENSE."
"SHOULD THEY REACH TOKYO AIRSPACE, THEY'LL TRIGGER OUR THIRD BARRIER, A HIGH-LOW MIX OF JSDF FIGHTERS AND TWO BATTERIES OF NIKE ANTI-AIRCRAFT MISSILES."

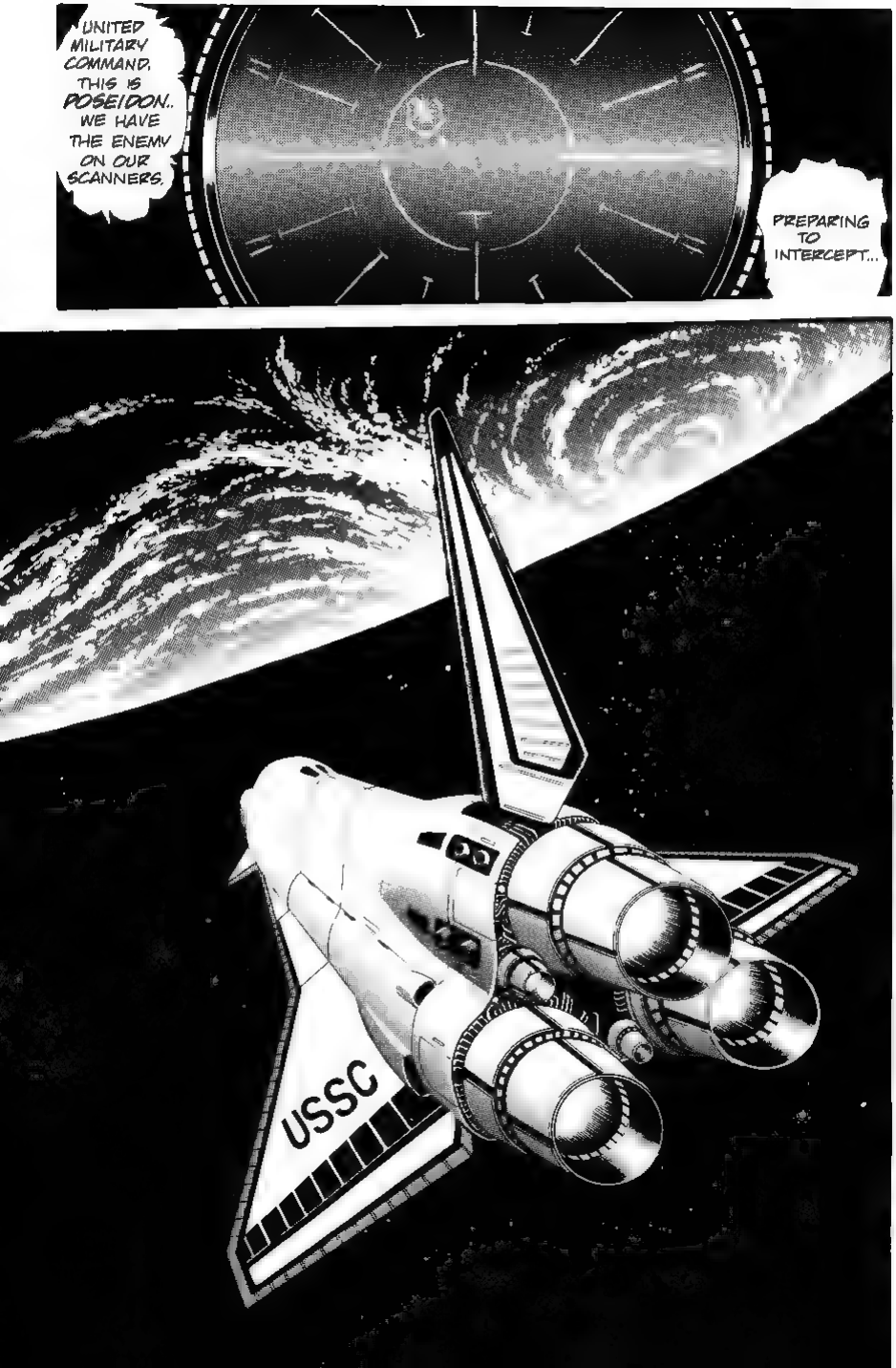

UNTIL PROJECT PHOENIX IS BROUGHT INTO ITS OPERATIONAL PHASE, WE MUST RELY ENTIRELY ON OUR EXISTING WEAPONRY.
WE HAVE TO INFLICT WHATEVER DAMAGE WE CAN ON THEIR ADVANCE GUARD BEFORE THE MAIN FLEET ARRIVES... A FLEET, GENTLEMEN, SAID TO NUMBER IN THE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS, PERHAPS MILLIONS OF SHIPS.

WHY DO THEY KEEP HITTING TOKYO ?
THIS IS THE THIRD TIME!
WE SIMPLY DON'T KNOW.

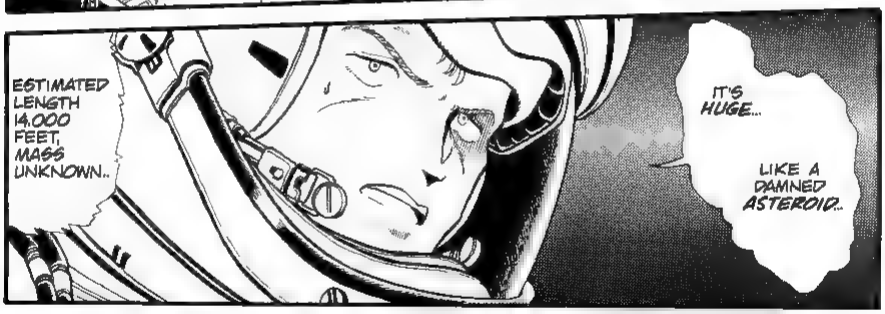

WHAT WE DO KNOW IS THAT THE SUCCESS OR FAILURE OF THIS INTERCEPT WILL IMPACT ALL FUTURE OPERATIONS.

IT'S GOING TO BE DIFFICULT...


THEIR APPROACH TO TECHNOLOGY AND WEAPONRY IS ENTIRELY DIFFERENT FROM OURS...
BIOMECHANICS, GENTLEMEN-- THEIR MACHINES AND WEAPONS ARE ALIVE!

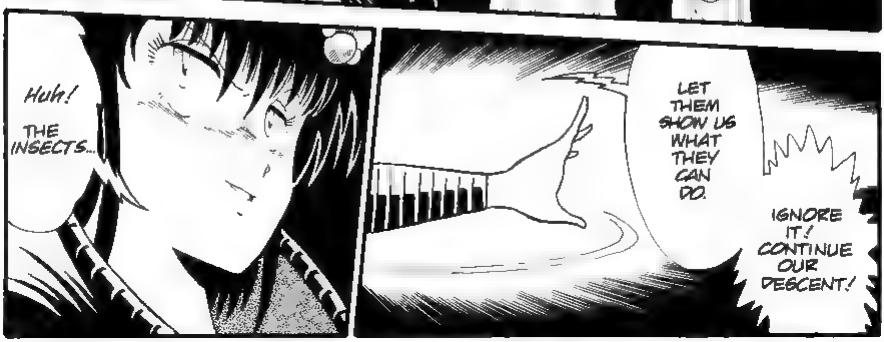

UNITED MILITARY COMMAND, THIS IS POSEIDON.. WE HAVE THE ENEMY ON OUR SCANNERS.
PREPARING TO INTERCEPT...
USSC

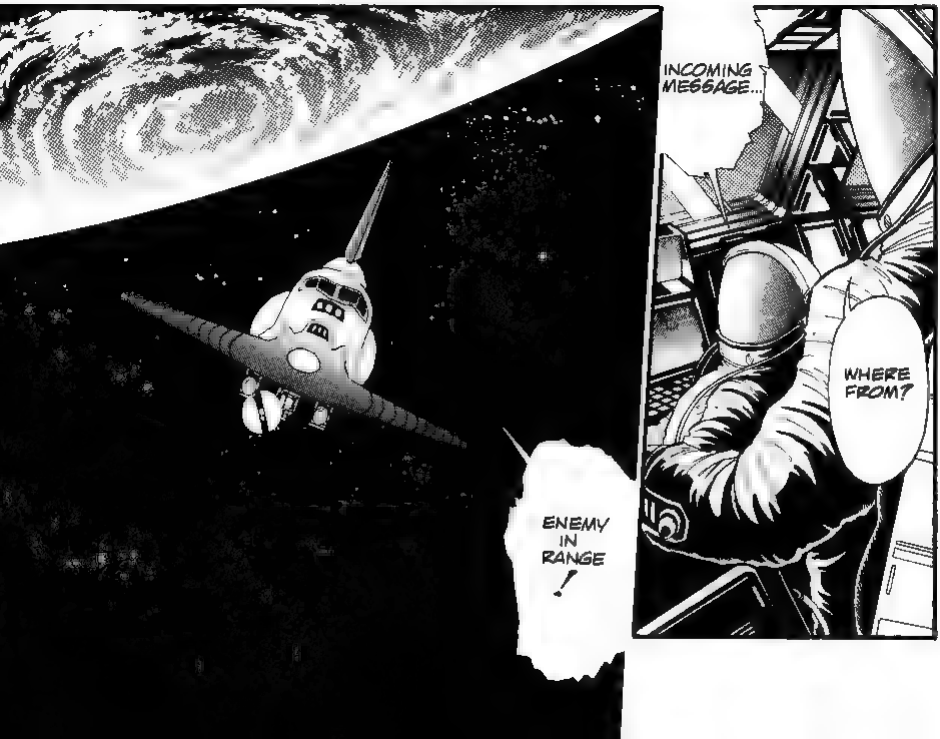
RADAR LOCK-ON.
INITIATE AUTO-TRACKING.
MAIN TRANSFER ENGINE OFF.
U.M.C. CONFIRMED.
USSC


ESTIMATED LENGTH 14,000 FEET, MASS UNKNOWN..
IT'S HUGE...
LIKE A DAMNED ASTEROID..

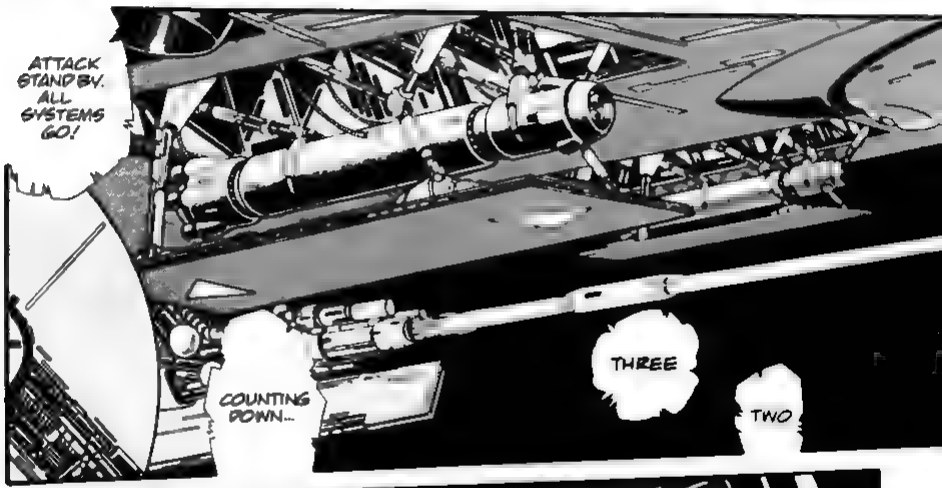
VENTURING ON

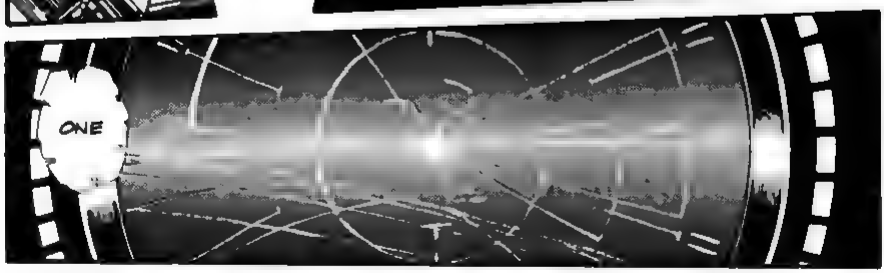
A SHIP ?
YES, COMMANDER VERY SMALL, BUT CLOSING FROM DEAD AHEAD.


Huh!
THE INSECTS...
LET THEM SHOW US WHAT THEY CAN DO.
IGNORE IT! CONTINUE OUR DESCENT!


INCOMING MESSAGE...
WHERE FROM?
ENEMY IN RANGE!

THE SOVIETS... SALYUT FIVE.
THEY SAY "SUCCESS IN BATTLE!"
NO PROBLEM WE'RE THE BEST IN THE BUSINESS!
I DONT INTEND TO GIVE THE KREMLIN ANYTHING TO LAUGH AT!


ATTACK STAND BY. ALL SYSTEMS GO!
COUNTING DOWN...
THREE
TWO


ONE

ZERO
FIRE!!

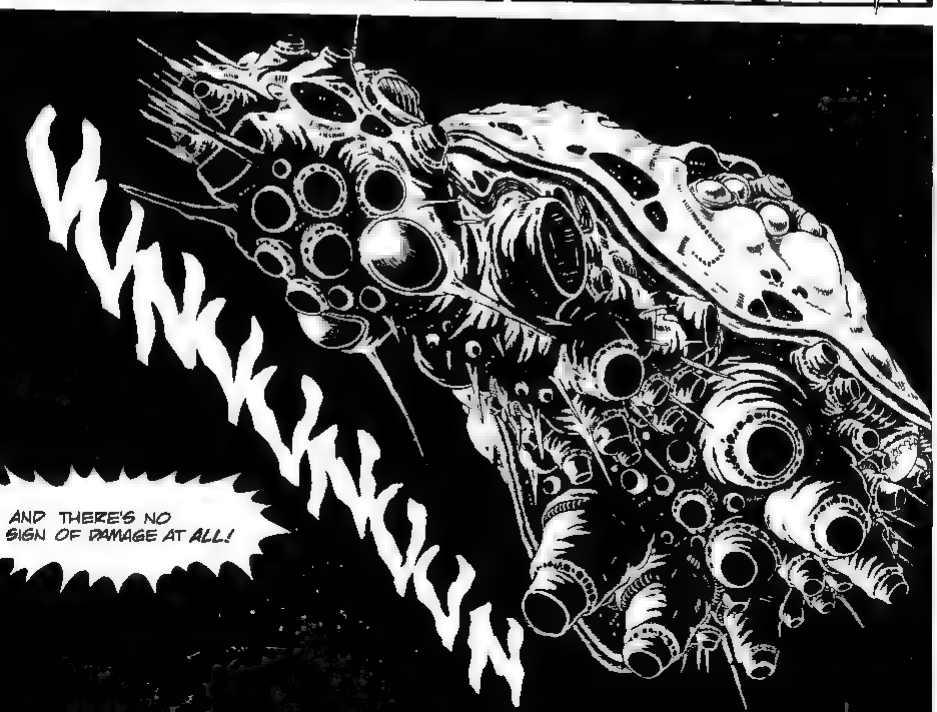
WHBABOOM

ALL WARHEADS ON TARGET! WE WASTED THEM!
TAKE THAT, YOU GODDAM ALIENS!

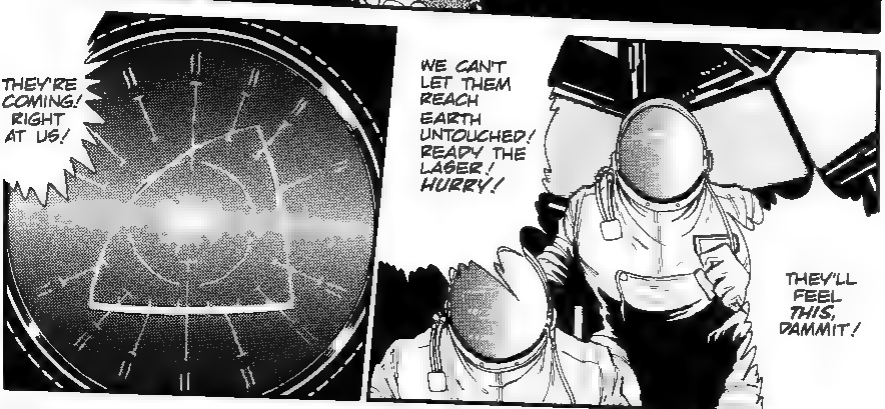
Hah! FIFTY MEGATONS!
THAT'D BLOW ANYTHING TO ATOMS!

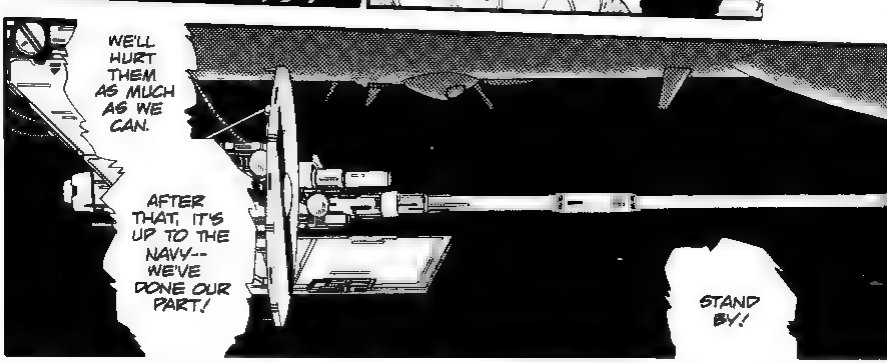
HEY, WHAT TH-
WE'VE GOT A RADAR TRACE!

THA... THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
NO MISTAKING IT, SIR. THEY'RE HEADED THIS WAY.


VVNKVNKVN
AND THERE'S NO SIGN OF DAMAGE AT ALL!

Hmph.
SO THAT'S THEIR BEST ?
I HOPED WE'D HAVE MORE FUN THAN THAT

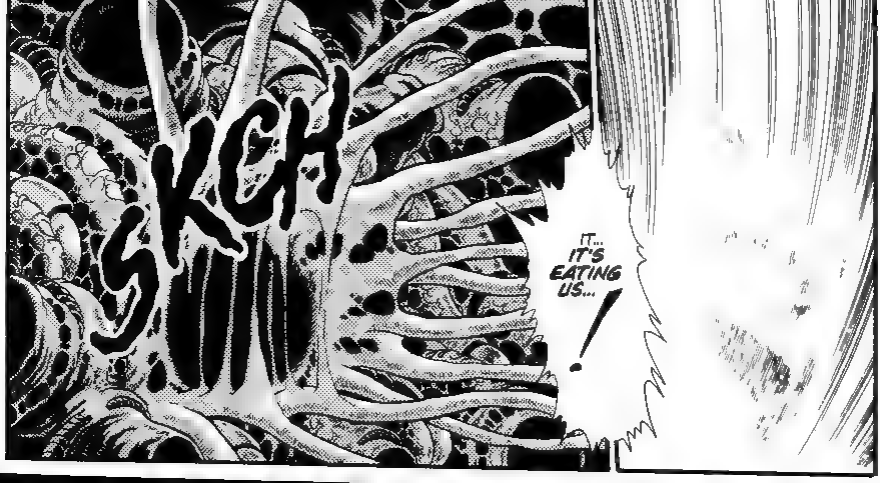

THEY'RE COMING! RIGHT AT US!
WE CAN'T LET THEM REACH EARTH UNTOUCHED! READY THE LASER! HURRY!
THEY'LL FEEL THIS, DAMMIT!


WE'LL HURT THEM AS MUCH AS WE CAN.
AFTER THAT, IT'S UP TO THE NAVY-- WE'VE DONE OUR PART!
STAND BY!

FIRE !

NO GOOD! GET US OUT OF HERE!
USSC

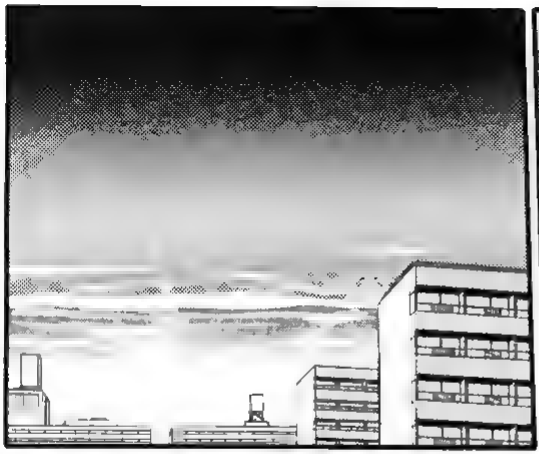
SPKKK
NOOO!!
USN
MAIN ENGINE! EMERGENCY OVERBOOST!!
THIS IS THE POSEIDON! MAYDAY! MAYDAY!
BMBBMB
HE.. HELP!!


SKCH
IT... IT'S EATING US...!

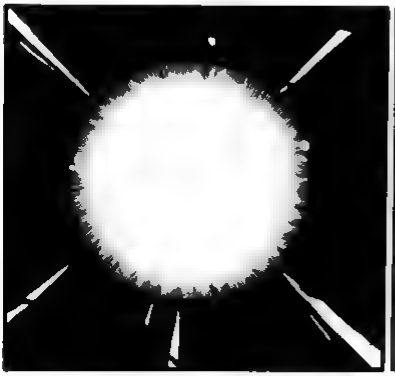
SKNCH
SKRAK

Huh! FOOLS!
THIS IS ALL BECAUSE YOU LOWER BEASTS HAVE THE NERVE TO FIGHT US!

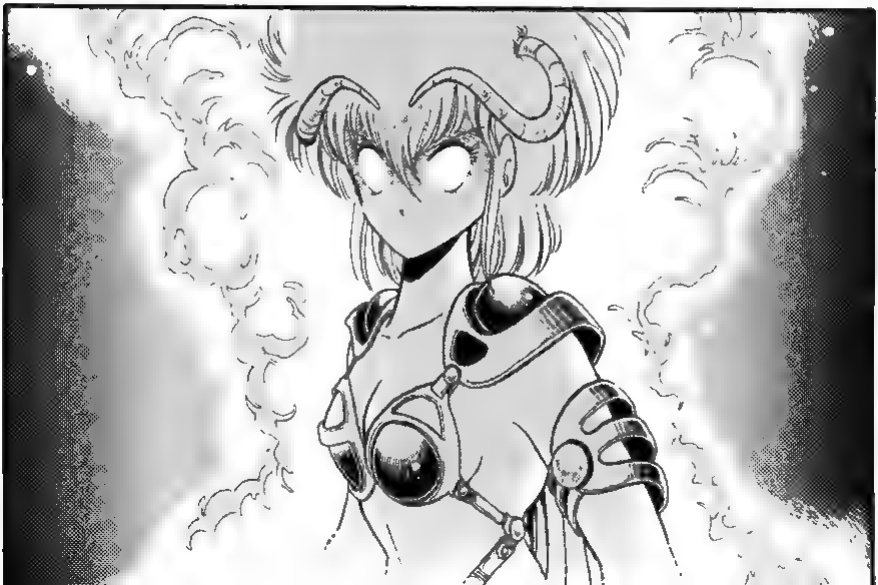
UNITED MILITARY COMMAND GHQ. DO YOU READ? THIS IS SALYUT FIVE CALLING...
THE ALIEN MOTHER SHIP HAS DESTROYED POSEIDON!
ENEMY NOW ENTERING THE ATMOSPHERE! ALL STATIONS ALERT!
WE REPEAT, MAXIMUM ALERT!



TICK TOCK



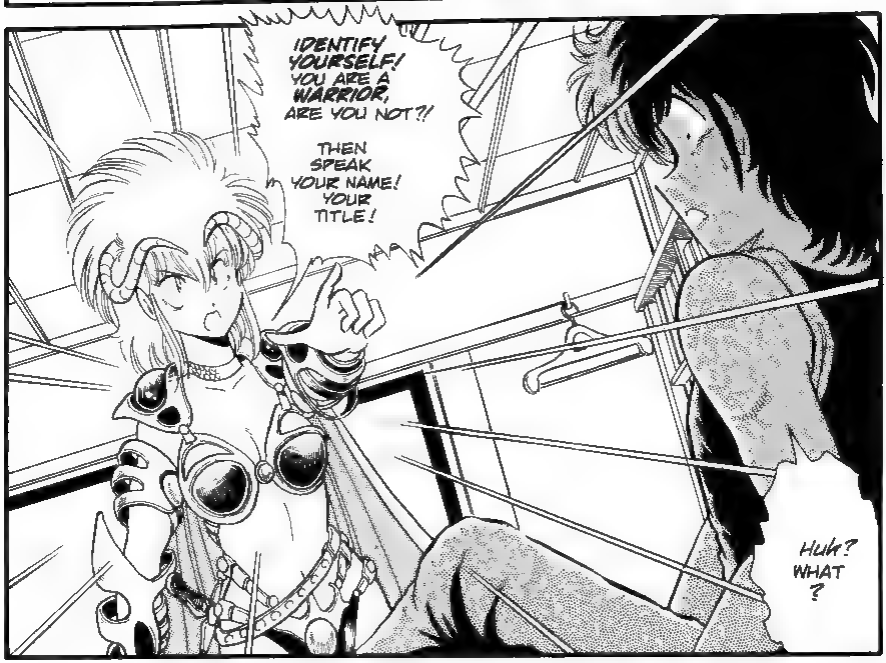
VZZZT



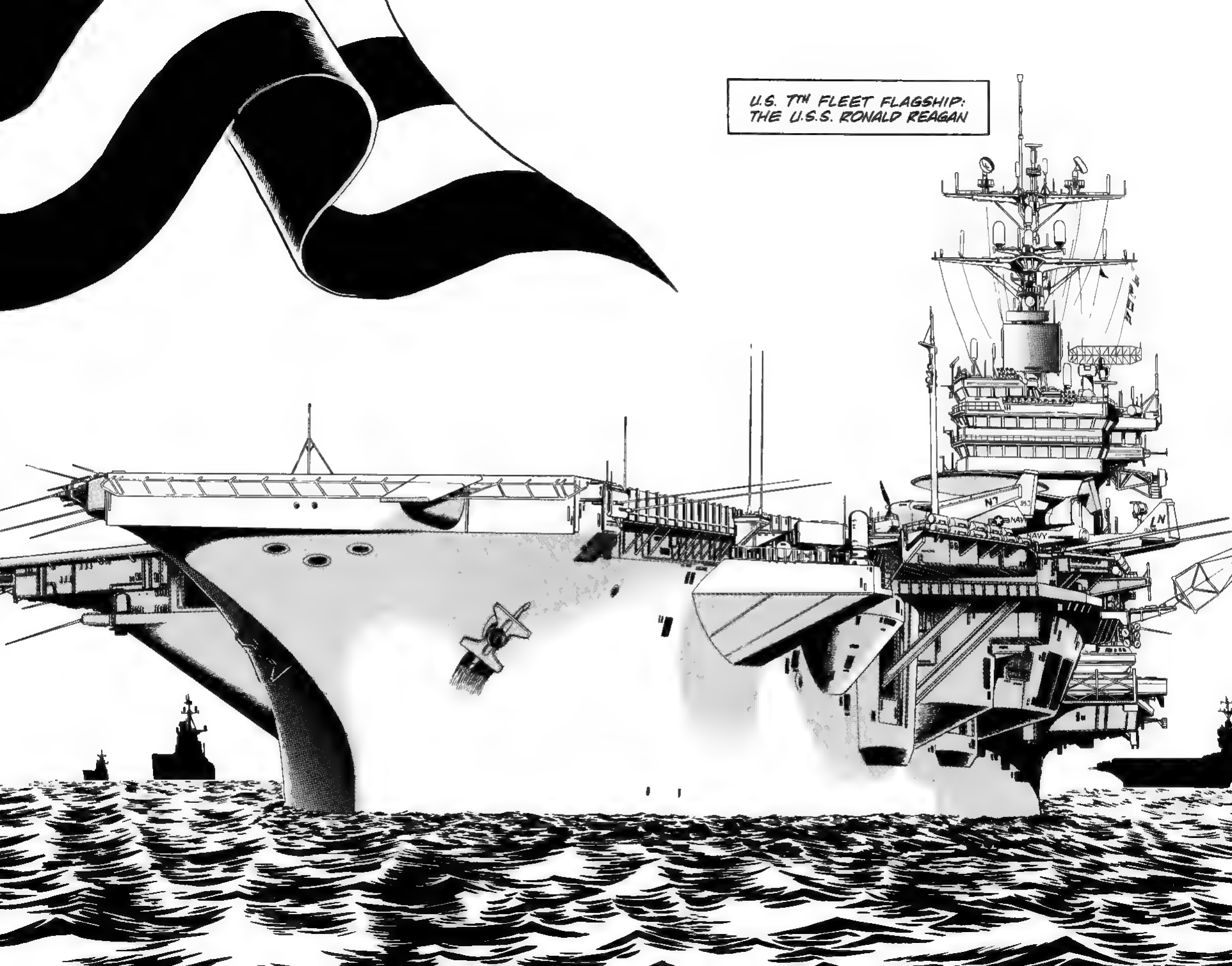
ZZNZZZ
....
....
KCHANK
WHA?!

EEYAAAH!!
Hahh Hahh
WHAT ARE YOU DOING ?! WHO--
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?!
I AM KAHM.
IMPERIAL PRINCESS OF THE SANTOVASKU EMPIRE!

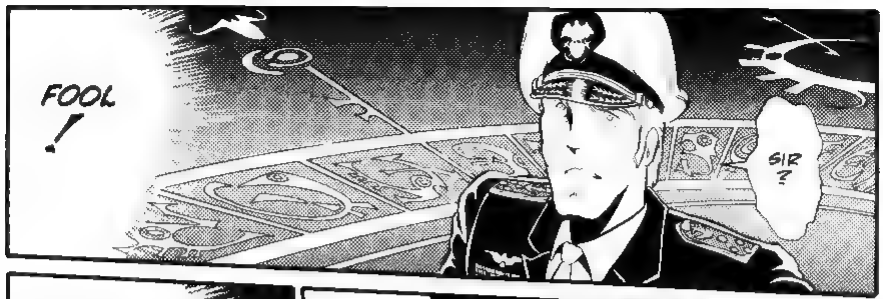
K-K-KAHM ?! PRINCESS ?!
BUT... BUT YOU SPEAK JAPANESE...?
HOW, HOW CAN YOU... WHO...

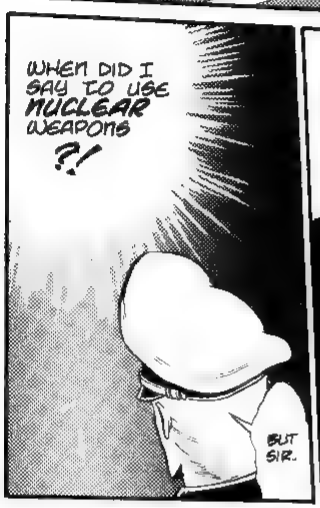

IDENTIFY YOURSELF! YOU ARE A WARRIOR, ARE YOU NOT?!
THEN SPEAK YOUR NAME! YOUR TITLE!
HUH? WHAT?

SHREEEE


U.S. 7TH FLEET FLAGSHIP:
THE U.S.S. RONALD REAGAN

SHREEEEE
400
411
165
THE FIRST DEFENSE LINE HAS BEEN BREACHED
THE ENEMY WILL ENTER COMBAT RADIUS IN THIRTY MINUTES
OF COURSE... YOUR SPACE-BASED MILITARY POWER IS INSIGNIFICANT.
I'M RELYING ON YOUR FLEET, ADMIRAL.
REST ASSURED, SIR...
...THE PLANES IN THE BELLY OF THIS SHIP ALONE COULD TURN HALF THE PLANET TO ASHES.


FOOL!
SIR?


WHEN DID I SAY TO USE NUCLEAR WEAPONS?!
BUT SIR.

STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND IS READY TO GO!
IF WE CAN'T TAKE OUT EVEN A SINGLE SHIP.

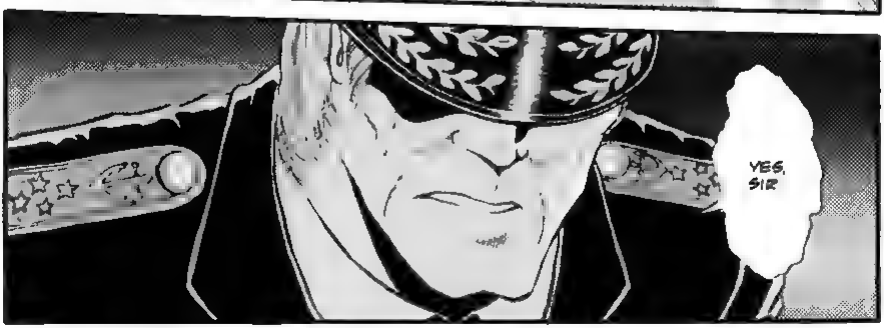
...IT'LL DESTROY THE MORALE OF THE ENTIRE HUMAN RACE!

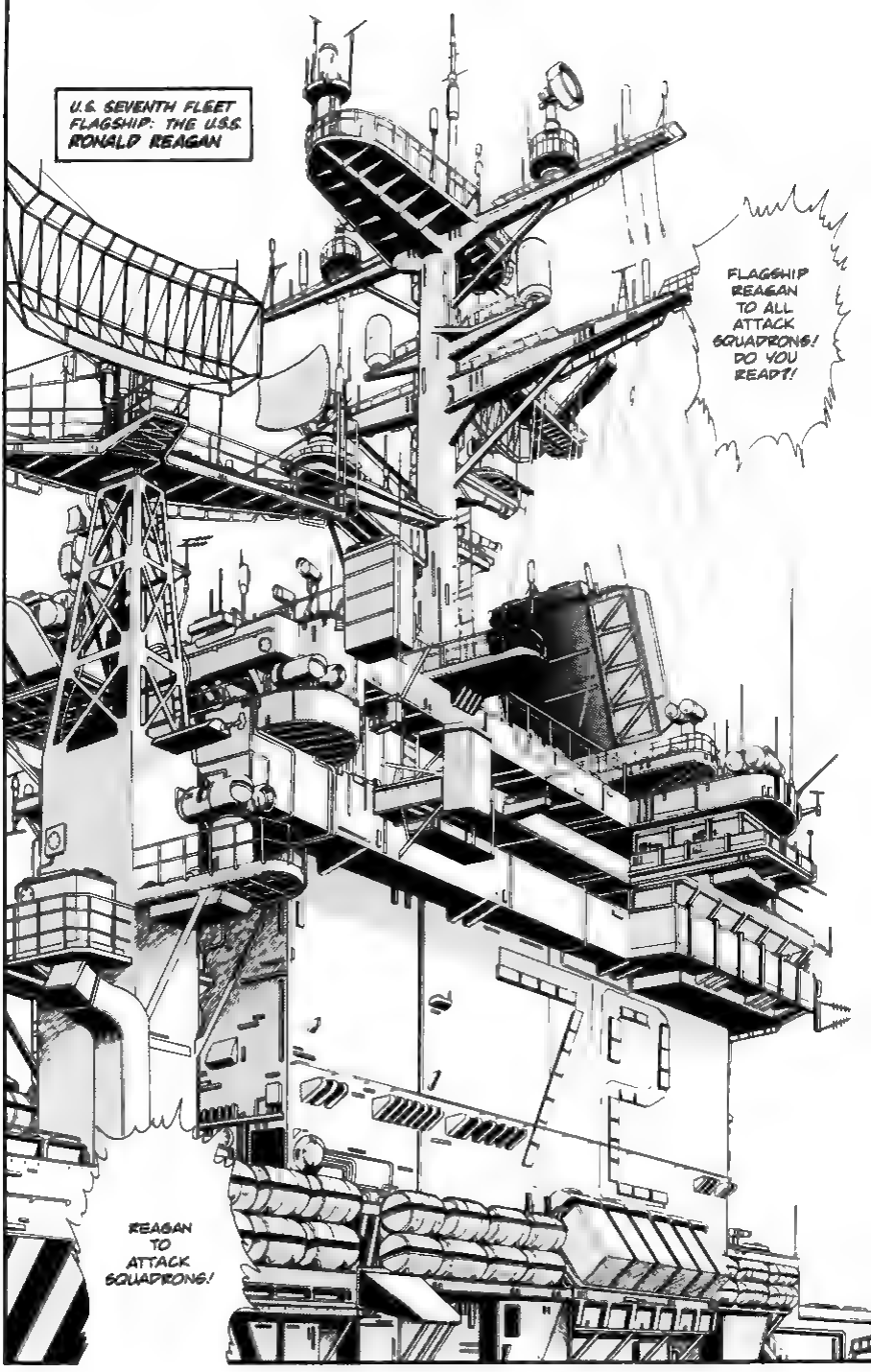
I ASSURE YOU. NUCLEAR WEAPONS ARE QUITE UNNECESSARY.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN...?

THERE IS NOTHING MORE POTENT THAN A BIOMECH... BUT THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A PERFECT WEAPON...
...IF YOU CANNOT CONTROL IT.

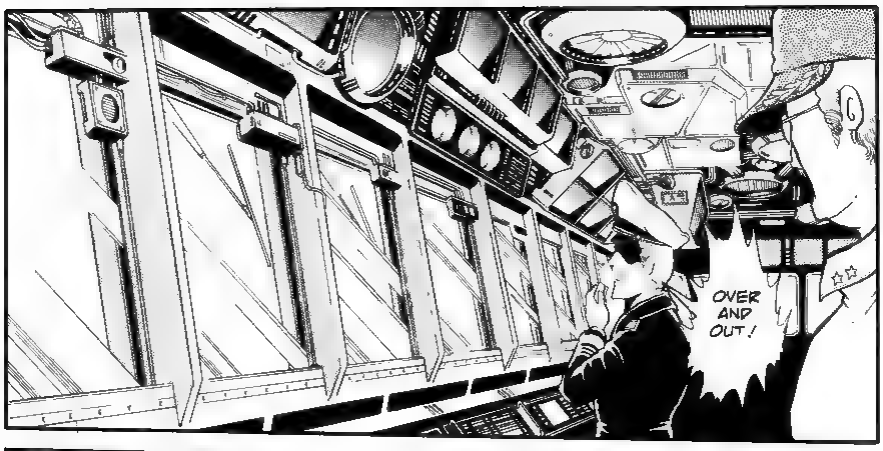
LEAVE IT TO ME...

AND DO NOT PRESUME TO GO AGAINST MY WILL!




U.S. SEVENTH FLEET FLAGSHIP: THE U.S.S. RONALD REAGAN
FLAGSHIP REAGAN TO ALL ATTACK SQUADRONS! DO YOU READY!
REAGAN TO ATTACK SQUADRONS!

OUR DEFENSE LINE IS THE LAST REAL BARRIER BETWEEN THE ENEMY AND TOKYO!
YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR DEFENDING THE TEN MILLION CITIZENS OF THAT CITY...
SHEEEEEEE
...AND I EXPECT NOTHING LESS THAN THE VERY BEST FROM ALL OF YOU!
400
BLOW THE INVADERS FROM OUR SKIES!!

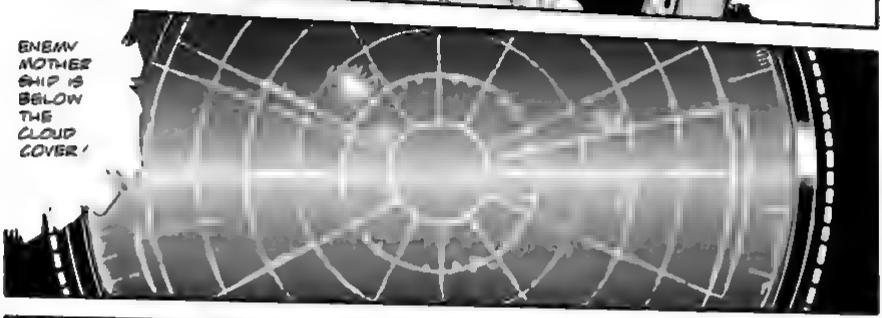

OVER AND OUT!

ADMIRAL! COMMUNIQUE COMING IN FROM JAPAN, SIR!
AH, GENERAL TOGO.
THE MOMENT DRAWS NEAR, ADMIRAL MUELLER.

GO IT DOES, BUT TAKE HEART, GENERAL.
I WON'T LET THEM NEAR JAPAN
THE GREAT LEADER HIMSELF HAS PROMISED TO LEND A HAND. I'LL BE IN TOUCH LATER...

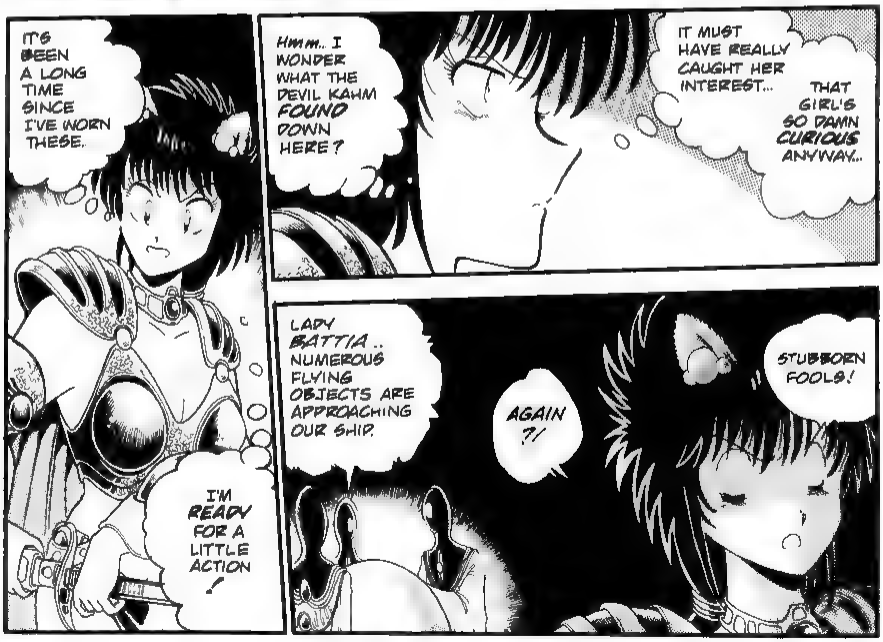
PRETTY CONFIDENT, AREN'T YOU.
KCHK

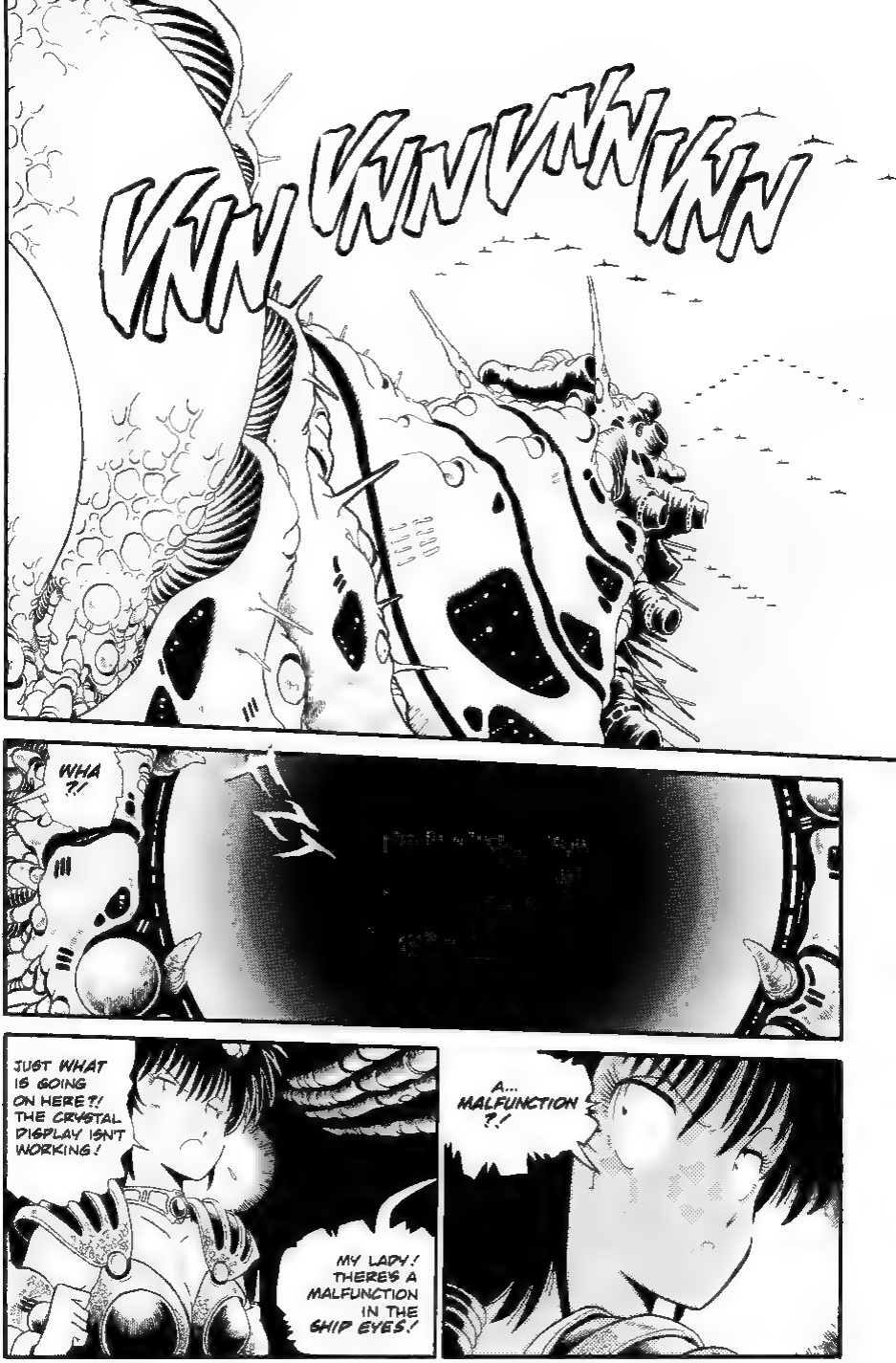
HOW ARE OUR DEPLOYMENTS?
SIR! ALL FORCES MOVED INTO POSITIONS UNDER COVER OF DARKNESS TO AVOID ALARMING THE CITIZENRY--


ENEMY MOTHER SHIP IS BELOW THE CLOUD COVER!

VRRNNNNNN

SO THOSE ARE THE OCEANS OF THE "SACRED PLANET"..



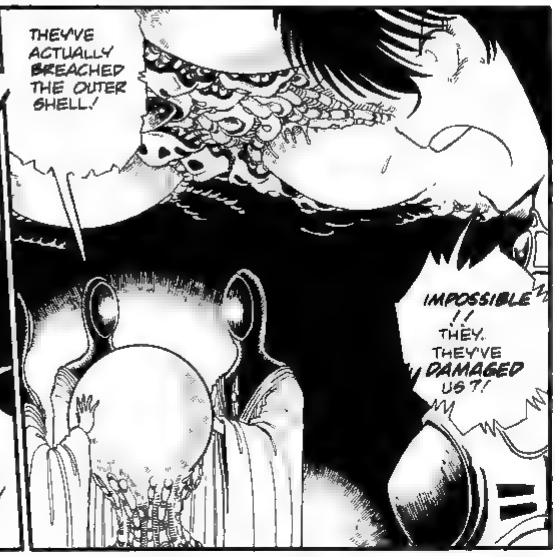

VNN VNN VNN VNN
WHA ?!
JUST WHAT IS GOING ON HERE?! THE CRYSTAL DISPLAY ISN'T WORKING!
MY LADY! THERE'S A MALFUNCTION IN THE SHIP EYES!
A... MALFUNCTION ?!

JUST WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT ?!
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM ?
WE DON'T KNOW, MY LADY. ALL SENSORY FUNCTIONS OF THIS SHIP HAVE BEEN PARALYZED!
I WANT MY VISION BACK NOW! SEE THAT IT IS DONE!
LAUNCH A PROBE! ANYTHING!
BBOOM
WHA WHAT WAS THAT ?!

SHEEOOOWW
SHEEOOOWW

WHKOOM

EKOO
WHAT'S HAPPENING ?!
WE'VE TAKEN A DIRECT HIT, LADY BATTIA!

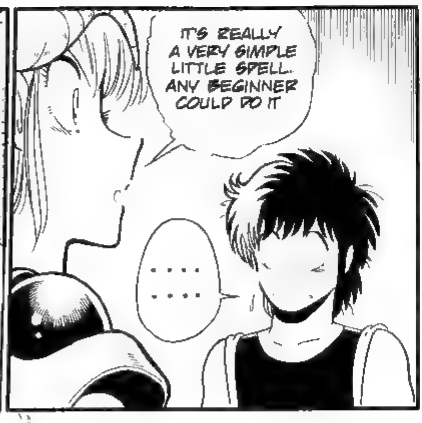

THEY'VE ACTUALLY BREACHED THE OUTER SHELL!
IMPOSSIBLE !! THEY. THEY'VE DAMAGED US ?!

RESCUE

WHROOM!
EIGHT HITS ON THE STARBOARD AFT PANELS!
ONE REACHED THE INNER SHELL!
THRUST IS DOWN BY HALF AND FALLING!
SOMETHING OR SOMEBODY IS BLOCKING OUR SHIP'S FUNCTIONS.
IT COULDN'T BE.. NO!

TET-SU-YA WA-KAT-SU-KI ?
PHOTOGRAPHER ?
YEAH! JUST A NEWSPAPER PHOTOGRAPHER. THAT'S ALL!
SO WHAT'S ALL THIS CRAP ABOUT WARRIORS AND QUEENS?!
THERE ISNT ANY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD CALLED "SANTO-WHATEVER"..!
YOU MUST BE JAPANESE, HUH? YOU SPEAK JAPANESE LIKE A NATIVE!
I'M SPEAKING MY MOTHER TONGUE !
YOU'RE THE ONE SPEAKING OUR LANGUAGE !
SHE'S GOT TO BE PUTTING ME ON..
I JUST CAST A LITTLE SPELL ON YOU.

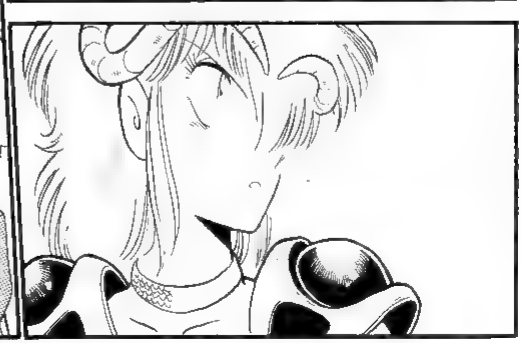
"WE TOUCHED MOUTHS, REMEMBER?"
"WE DID?"
"THAT LET'S YOU SPEAK OUR LANGUAGE"


IT'S REALLY A VERY SIMPLE LITTLE SPELL. ANY BEGINNER COULD DO IT
.....

I SURE DON'T REMEMBER THIS GIRL CLIMBING INTO BED WITH ME LAST NIGHT..
AND ALL THIS STUFF ABOUT SPELLS AND PRINCESSES.. GOD, MAYBE SHE REALLY IS FROM ANOTHER WORLD...!

SO TELL ME...
JUST WHO ARE YOU?
WHERE DO YOU COME FROM ?

WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO DO WITH THOSE MONSTERS AND THAT BUG-EYED GOLDFISH THING?!
WHY WERE YOU KILLING ALL THOSE SOLDIERS ?!



COME ON! I WANT TO KNOW!
IF I FIND OUT, MAYBE I'LL STOP HAVING THOSE GODAWFUL NIGHTMARES!
GAK!
THAT'S ME, ISN'T IT.
GEE..DO YOU CREATURES KEEP RECORDS OF YOUR OPPONENTS IN BATTLE?
NO, NO! THAT'S JUST, I...
I THOUGHT YOU WERE CUTE, SO I...
"CUTE"...?
YOU THINK SO? REALLY?
OH, YEAH! FOR SURE! PRETTY, BEAUTIFUL, GORGEOUS!
REALLY.

GREAT.. SHE'S SOFTENING UP NOW'S MY CHANCE..
OH, YEAH.. THAT SWORD.. ITS YOURS, RIGHT?
LET ME GIVE IT BACK.
THAT ONE'S FOR YOU TO USE!

I SUFFERED THE DEGRADATION OF DEFEAT AT YOUR HANDS..
THE ONLY WAY TO RESTORE MY HONOR.. IS TO KILL YOU IN BATTLE!
I WAS OVERCONFIDENT LAST TIME...
I WON'T MAKE THAT MISTAKE TWICE. THIS TIME..

I WILL KILL YOU !!

VNN
VNN
VNN
VNN
NAVY

LADY BATTIA! THE PROBLEM IS BECOMING CRITICAL! THE DAMAGE IS AFFECTING THE BIOLOGICAL SUBSTRUCTURE...
SO WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO ABOUT IT?!

WE CAN'T EVEN TRACK, MUCH LESS ENGAGE THE ENEMY!
HOW CAN THIS BE HAPPENING TO ME?!

"THIS BATTLESHIP IS BIOENGINEERED FROM ONE OF THE GREAT SEA DRAGONS OF MERUNDEUS...ITS LIFE ENERGY IS NEAR-LIMITLESS... BUT ITS STILL AN *ANIMAL*. IF IT'S DAMAGED *TOO* BADLY BY THE ENEMY, ITS SELF-REPAIR FUNCTIONS FALL BEHIND."

"THAT'S WHY WE GENERATE A NULLSPACE SHIELD AROUND THE HULL."

"ANY ATTACK IS SWALLOWED BY THE SHIELD, AND NEVER REACHES THE SHIP ITSELF. THE NULLSPACE SHIELD HAS ALLOWED THE SANTOVASKU EMPIRE TO ADVANCE THROUGH THE UNIVERSE AS THOUGH WE MARCHED ACROSS AN EMPTY FIELD."

FIRST-CLASS OFFICERS LIKE ME GENERATE THE SHIELD.

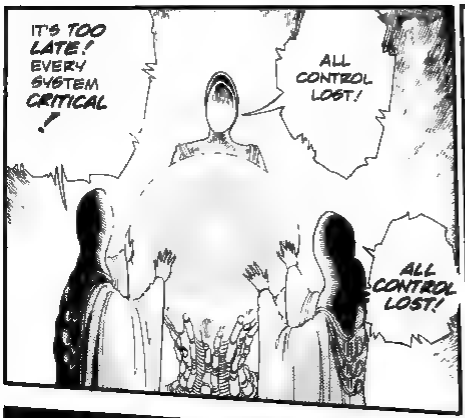
WHICH MUST MEAN--SOMEONE ON THIS PLANET HAS POWERS EVEN *GREATER* THAN MY OWN!

REAGAN REAGAN, DO YOU READ?

ENEMY MOTHER SHIP HAS TAKEN HEAVY DAMAGE, IS LOSING SPEED AND ALTITUDE!

WHAT?! HEAVY DAMAGE? YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY SURE?!
IT'S GOING DOWN!
MUELLER DID IT!
TOKYO'S SAFE!
Mmm
GENTLEMEN, WE OWE ALL THIS TO GREAT LEADER NEO!
INCREDIBLE!
THAT SHIP WITHSTOOD A FULL NUCLEAR ATTACK.. AND HE HAS LEFT IT POWERLESS.
OF COURSE, BECAUSE OF THAT POWER..
...HE'S BECOME RULER OF THIS ENTIRE PLANET!

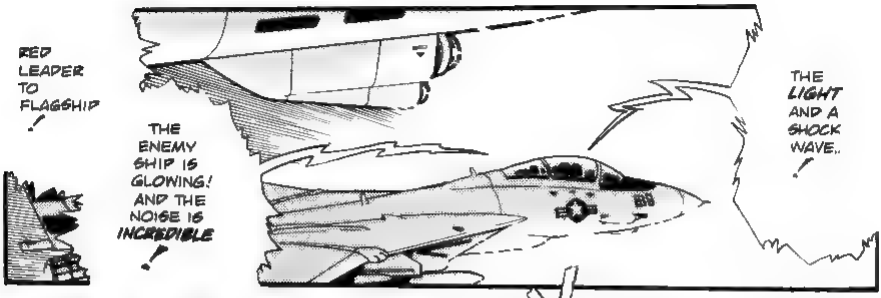
GRRAAAA!
GRAAA
EMERGENCY! ABNORMAL CONCENTRATION OF LIFE ENERGY IN THE BOW WEAPONRY!
WE ARE UNABLE, REPEAT UNABLE TO CONTROL IT!
TH-THAT.. THAT'S THE SHIP! IT'S SCREAMING!
WHAT?!
STOP IT! NOW!!
RRAAA
SEND AN EMERGENCY OVERRIDE TO THE CENTRAL CEREBRUM!

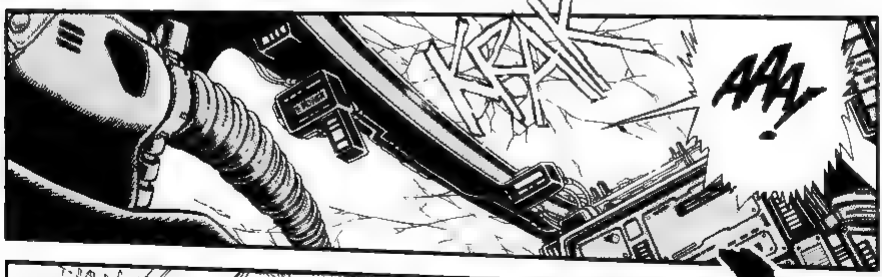

IT'S TOO LATE! EVERY SYSTEM CRITICAL!
ALL CONTROL LOST!
ALL CONTROL LOST!

THAT DAMNED ISLAND IS STRAIGHT DOWN THE DISCHARGE AXIS!
CALL PRINCESS KAHM! ANY WAY YOU CAN!

IT'S THE SHIP'S SELF DEFENSE MECHANISM...THE LAST RESORT WHEN ITS LIFE IS IN DANGER... A TOTAL LIFE-ENERGY DISCHARGE!
BUT IF IT DOES IT HERE...!

GRRAAAAR


RED LEADER TO FLAGSHIP!
THE ENEMY SHIP IS GLOWING! AND THE NOISE IS INCREDIBLE!
THE LIGHT AND A SHOCK WAVE..!


KRAK
AAA!

KSHOOOM!

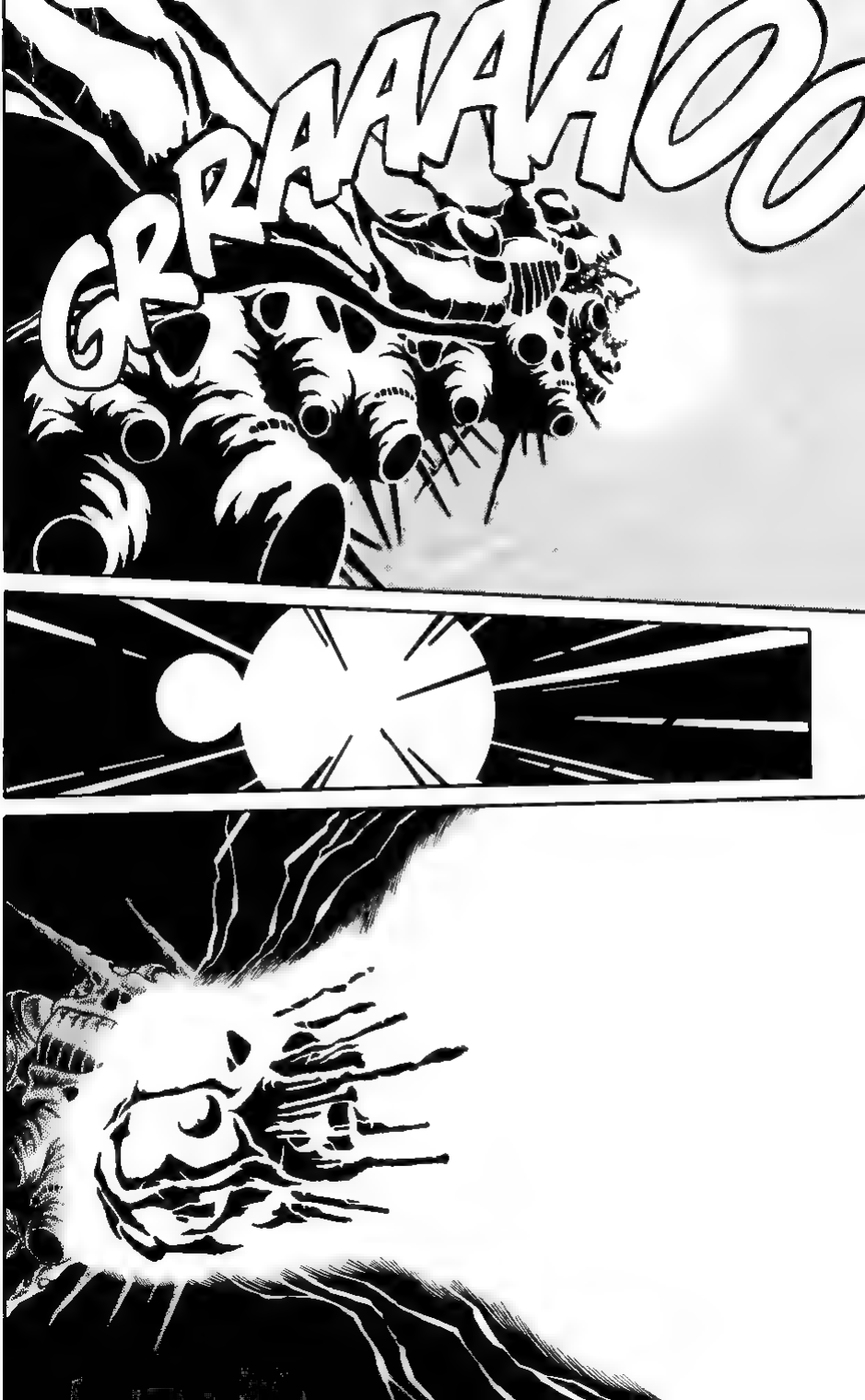
KANG
SKRASH
SHINGG
ZOOM
STOP RUNNING AND FIGHT!
YOU COWARD!
DAMN IT!
I SAID I'D GIVE YOU YOUR STUPID SWORD!
SHUT UP AND DIE!

KRASHANGG
WHPP
UHGK!
UHHH...
VICTORY IS MINE!
AND NOW, YOU...
<KAHM>
!!

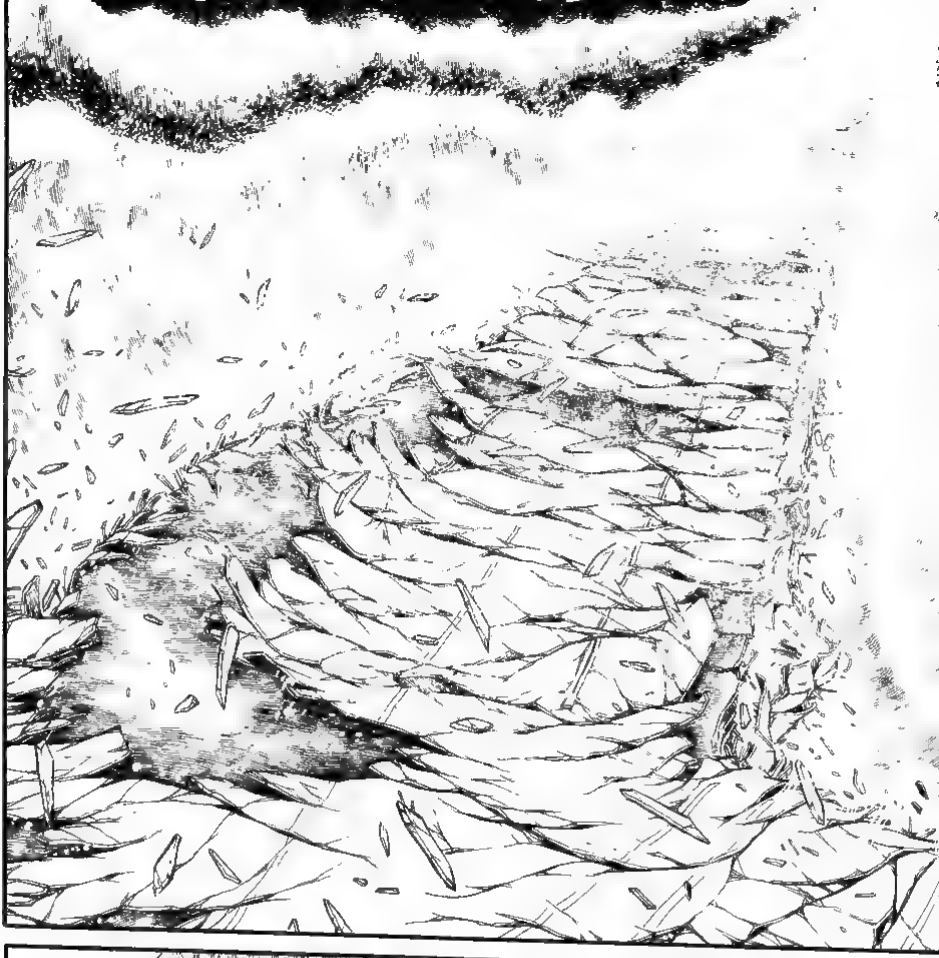
(KAHM! IT'S ME!)
BATTIA ?
BATTIA, IS THAT YOU? ARE YOU ON THIS PLANET?
(GET OUT OF THERE!)
WHA ?
?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
(THAT WHOLE ISLAND'S GOING TO BE VAPORIZED) !
VAPORIZED ?
(THERE'S NO TIME TO EXPLAIN!)
JUST GET OUT OF THERE !!

SHES SERIOUS !
THIS WHOLE ISLAND... DESTROYED ?
uh, oh...
....
IS THIS IT. ?
HUH ?
H-HEY !
JUST WAIT A SEC...!

WHWHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME? HEY! THAT'S A FIFTH FLOOR WINDOW!
LEGGO, DAMN IT!
KRIK
YEEOW!
?
EEYAAHH!
IT'S BACK!


GRRAAAAA

A HIGH ENERGY SURGE! HEADED THIS WAY!
IT'S GOING TO HIT US!!

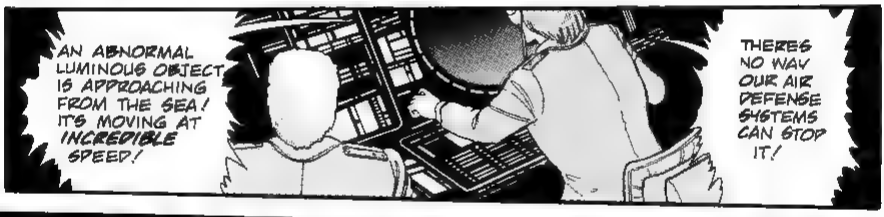


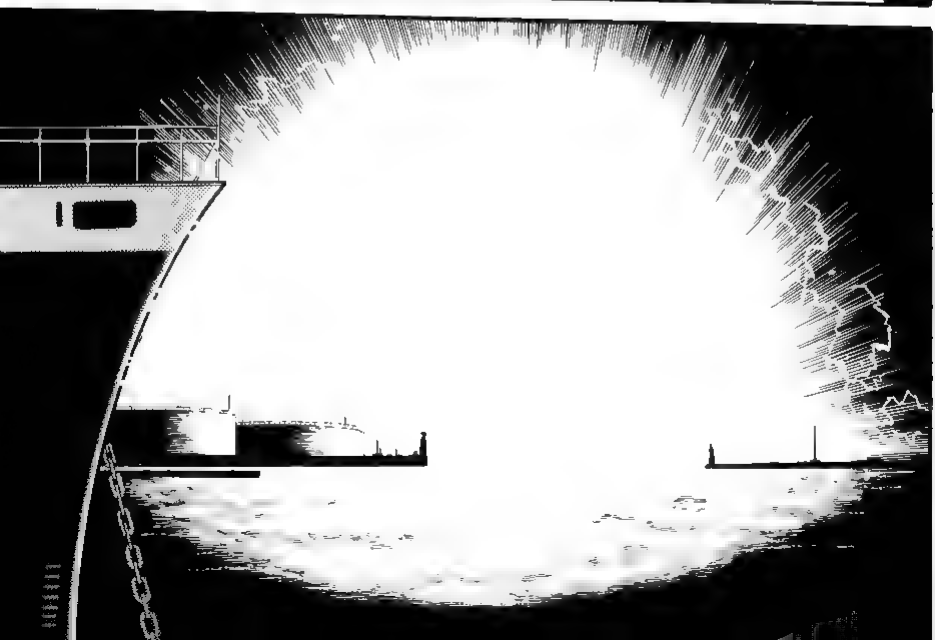
NO !!

EEYAAAHHH!!

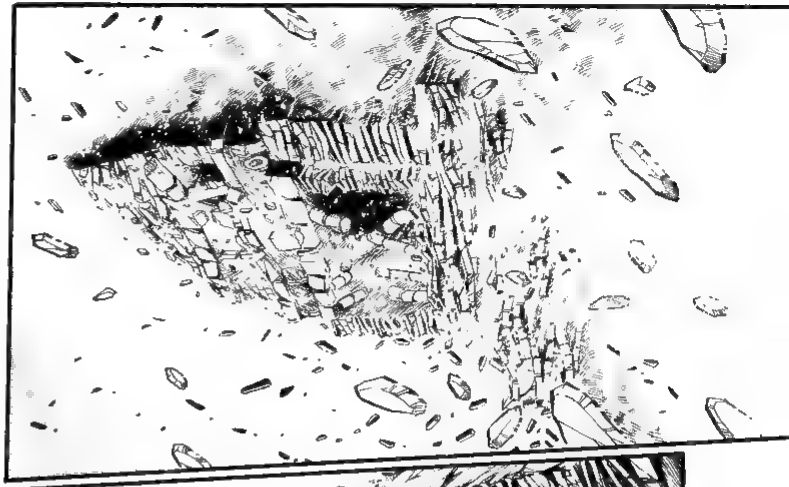
THE REAGAN'S VANISHED FROM OUR SCREENS!

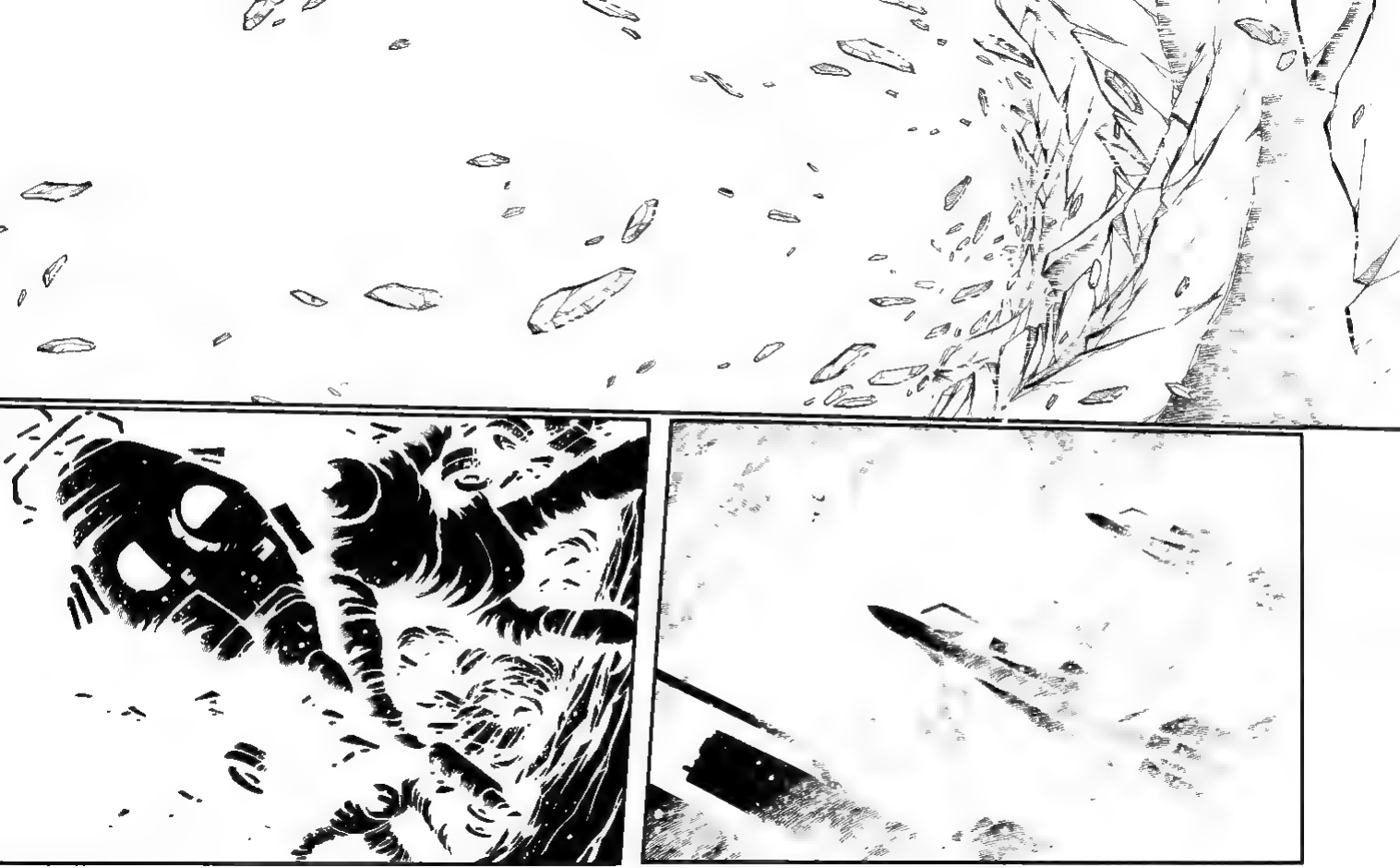
WHA...
WHAT!!


AN ABNORMAL LUMINOUS OBJECT IS APPROACHING FROM THE SEA! IT'S MOVING AT INCREDIBLE SPEED!
THERES NO WAY OUR AIR DEFENSE SYSTEMS CAN STOP IT!



WHOOM!





KOOA!
GHAA!
EEYAAHH!
WROOM

WHUP
WHUP
WHUPWHUP

SIBERIA:
AUTONOMOUS REPUBLIC OF YAKUTSK
NOVOROSTOK BASE
WHHP
WHHH
WHHH
WHHP

IS THAT AKI OKAZAWA ?
THAT'S HER

A LITTLE SOONER AND WE WOULDNT HAVE LOST JAPAN.
HMM

LET'S GO...

YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF EXPLAINING TO DO, MAGATO!

SURE

!

THAT LIGHT.. IT'S BLOOD RED A FOREST FIRE..?
IT'S JAPAN..
JAPAN IS BURNING.
JAPAN ?!
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS! YOU SAID WE WERE IN SIBERIA! HOW COULD WE SEE A FIRE IN JAPAN FROM HERE?!
YOU THINK I WOULD LIE ABOUT A THING LIKE THAT ?
IT'S BEEN DESTROYED BY THE LEADER OF THOSE FIRST MONSTERS THAT CAME.
THE ENTIRE COUNTRY.

WHY ARE YOU TELLING ME THESE LIES?!
OF COURSE YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME...
...I DON'T WANT TO BELIEVE IT, EITHER

BUT IF WE HOLD BACK ANY LONGER, THE WHOLE WORLD WILL END UP LIKE JAPAN.
TRAMPLED UNDERFOOT BY THE EVIL BASTARDS WHO CONTROL THOSE MONSTERS.
THE HUMAN RACE... EXTERMINATED
THAT MUCH WE KNOW WILL HAPPEN!

THEN.. THEN EVERYONE'S.. DEAD?
TETSUYA..
EVERYBODY..?

NO!!
YOU'RE LYING!!

YOU'RE LYING! LYING!
THEY CAN'T ALL BE DEAD!
PLEASE DON'T CRY.. IT CAN'T CHANGE ANYTHING
HOW... HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT...!
KWCH
WELCOME, MISS OKAZAWA.
WE'VE COME TO TAKE YOU TO GREAT LEADER NEO.
"GREAT LEADER.
NEO.?"

Greetings! This is my first opportunity to say hello to my American readers, and so — hello! This is Johji Manabe, creator of *Outlanders*.

Thank you (really) for reading my *Outlanders* comic, month after month. *Outlanders* wrapped up in Japan about two years ago, but it was my very first full-length story to be serialized in a comic magazine, and so I still have a soft place for it in my heart. From the beginning of my career as a cartoonist, I had always wanted to try my hand at space opera. The reason for this was pretty simple: I love drawing spaceships! I had this fantasy of my characters running around in a universe swarming with massive space battleships, thousands of meters long. Initially, I was under orders from the editors to make *Outlanders* an action story full of monsters, mayhem, and destruction. Since I'm not particularly fond of monsters, I came up with the compromise of living battleships, the biomech warships of *Outlanders*.

These beginnings determined the final shape of the *Outlanders* universe. Drawing those damn ships has been a real bitch though . . .

As for my characters, I've pretty much let them do their own thing. Rather than fret and moan over their misbehavior, I decided they could play out their own roles as they pleased. Of course, working with their complicated personalities was trouble enough, not to mention designing their appearances to everyone's satisfaction. I'd never done clothing design before, so getting the characters and the Santovasku Army suited up was a real nightmare. Looking back, though, it was an excellent learning experience.

The story line, on the other hand, wasn't much trouble. Since *Outlanders* was to be a war story, I knew that someone had to win and someone had to lose. Both the earth and the Empire had their own problems to work out, and getting things to mesh properly was sometimes difficult. In the end, I was able to get the story to move along smoothly. Still, flipping though the volumes these days, there are quite a few things I wish I'd done differently. Someday, if I have the chance, I'd like to write *Outlanders II* and get it right Or perhaps I'll write a follow-up, a history of the post-war years . . .

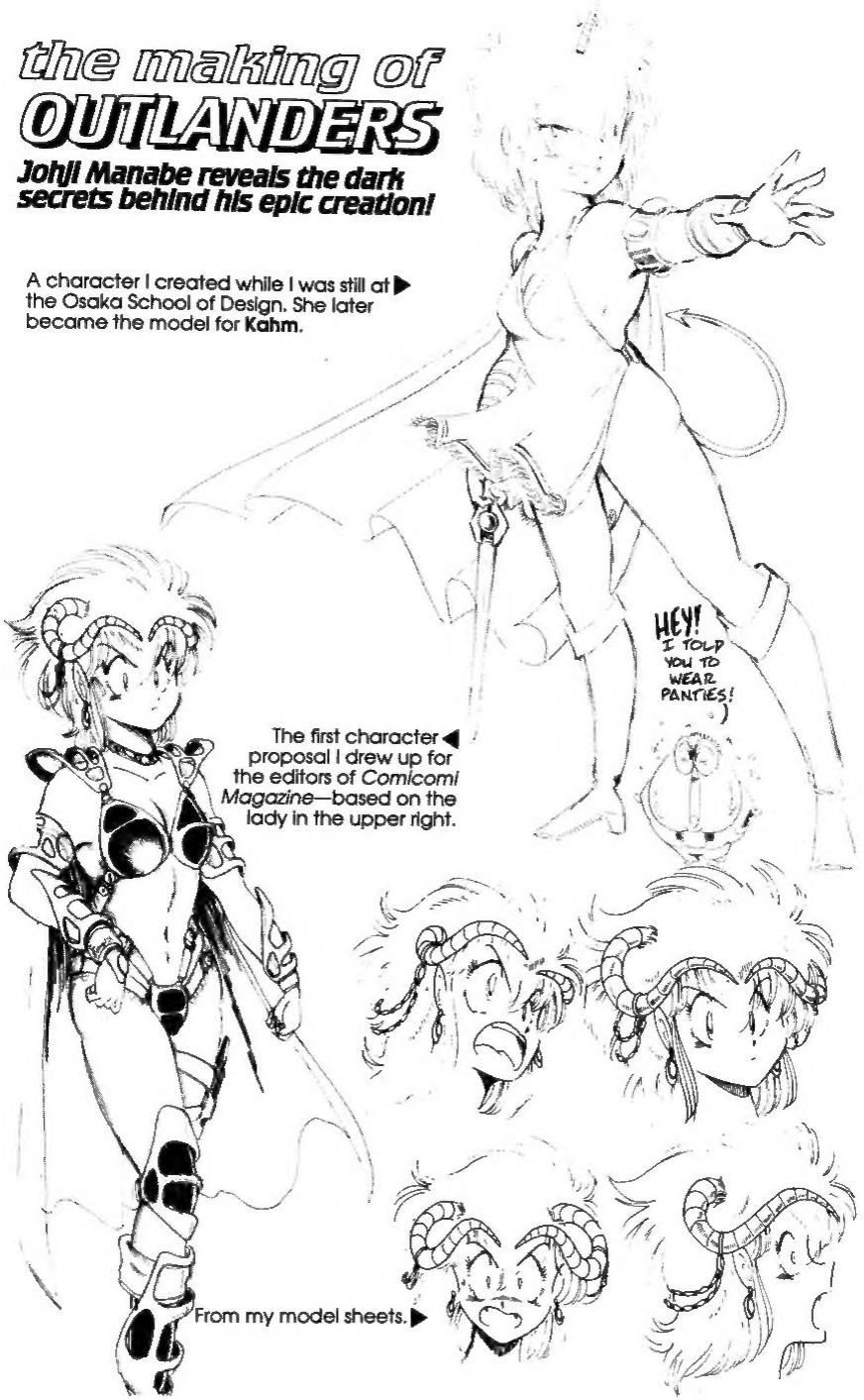
Outlanders was the work that finally gave me confidence that I could keep myself fed and clothed working as a cartoonist. I count myself lucky that my first serialized manga won so much support from its readers in Japan, and I am overjoyed that, through the cooperation of Dark Horse and Studio Proteus, *Outlanders* is being read by fans in America, too. There's a lot more in store for Kahm and Tetsuya on their twisting path to love and for the earth and the Empire as they lock in final battle. I hope you'll watch them all until the end.

Thanks!

Johji Manabe
Ekoda, Japan
October 1989

the making of OUTLANDERS

Johji Manabe reveals the dark secrets behind his epic creation!



A character I created while I was still at the Osaka School of Design. She later became the model for **Kahm**.

The first character proposal I drew up for the editors of *Comicomi Magazine*—based on the lady in the upper right.

From my model sheets.

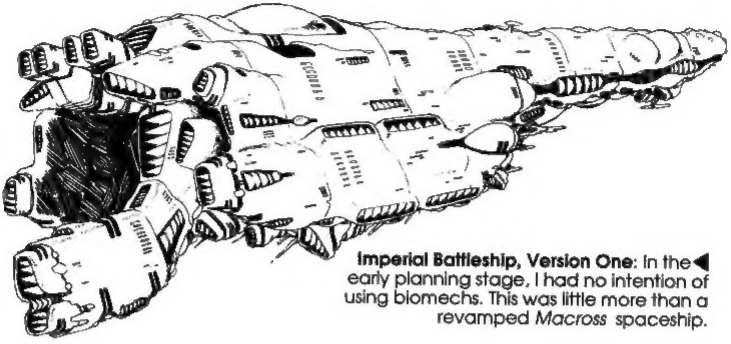
My first attempt at **Battia**. Early in the planning stages, I was calling her "Medusa."

Tetsuya as I first imagined him. He was originally going to be a high school student, but that would have been the same as my earlier *Love Synchroid*, so...

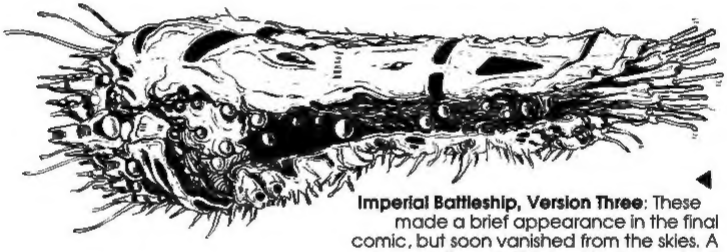
And the first version of **Aki**. At first she was going to be a university student.

Nao, looking a little more handsome than he eventually ended up looking, don't you think?

The Mecha



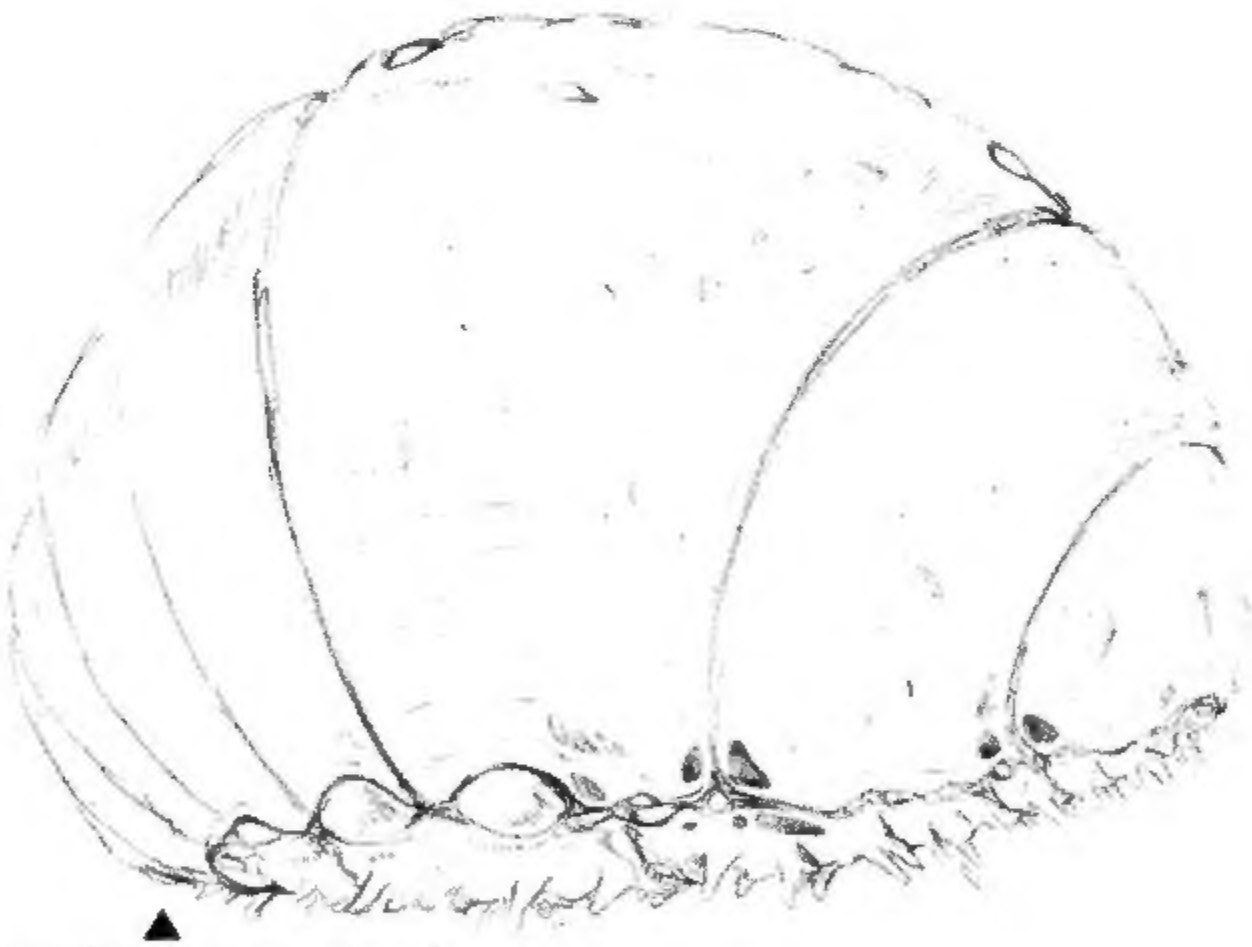
Imperial Battleship, Version One: In the early planning stage, I had no intention of using biomechs. This was little more than a revamped *Macross* spaceship.



Imperial Battleship, Version Three: These made a brief appearance in the final comic, but soon vanished from the skies. A priceless glimpse of the author's near-total lack of coherent continuity.

Imperial Battleship, Final Version: Or so I say. But, in fact, they keep changing every time I draw them.

The Megatron: You may not believe it, but a lot of people like this mecha. Hmm.



Rha Ledaruba: This ship being Kahm's own personal yacht/battleship, I figured I should draw something really spiffy. Oh, well...

These are only a small portion of the initial design drawings. If the opportunity presents itself, you may yet see some of the things I didn't have the space for here. See you again!